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THE TIMES

30p

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Record 27 years for burglar who terrified people in their homes



Clarkson: judges must note victims' trauma

BY JOANNA BALE

A VIOLENT burglar who gloried in terrorising his wealthy victims was jailed for a record 27 years yesterday after being told by the judge that his crimes were far worse than robberies of banks and building societies.

As he was sentenced to the longest term of imprisonment ever passed for domestic break-ins, Keith Bramble reeled backwards in the dock with shock. He will serve at least 18 years.

Judge Clarkson, QC, who retires today, told the 6ft 5in burglar that he was being severely punished for his "wicked crimes, carried out against people in their own homes". He said: "Inspiring terror seems to have had an appeal to Keith Bramble. This defendant gloried in the effect that he could produce.

"Far too many courts these days look with a certain intellectual detachment when they think about the effect they have on those who are the victims of these crimes."

As offences went, Bramble's domestic robberies were more serious than a raid on a bank or a building society, which were prepared for such crimes, Judge Clarkson added at Middlesex Crown Court.

"The residents in their homes are taken completely by surprise and with the use or threat of personal violence, they are forced to part not only with their money, but the rings they are wearing on their hands and their valuables which are of often of great sentimental value and utterly irreplaceable. This has a lasting effect which no judge ought to play down."

Detective Inspector Jon Shatford said of the victims: "They will never recover. They are totally devastated. A common feature is that they do not feel safe in their own homes any more. Nightmares are a frequent occurrence and they actually had flashbacks, as they describe it, of what happened."

Judge Clarkson invoked special sentencing powers available under the Criminal Justice Act to impose a jail term 50 per cent longer than he would otherwise have passed. He told 36-year-old Bramble that he would serve concurrent terms of 21, 22 and 27 years for the three robberies of which he was convicted on Tuesday with another six months, also concurrent, for assaulting a police officer with intent to resist arrest.

Anthony Gabbidon, 31, who accompanied Bramble on the last and most serious raid was sentenced to 16 years.

Police estimate that Bramble carried out more than 100 burglaries. Swathed in black and wearing a menacing "highwayman's mask", he used the cover of dark and stormy nights to target large houses in up-market areas such as The Bishops Avenue, Hampstead, north London. He armed himself with weapons including crowbars, knives and a screwdriver.

Outside court, Det Insp Shatford said: "This sentence will do more to prevent burglary than anything the police can do. Criminals have been treated leniently for too long. They are walking out of court laughing and we are left to pick up the pieces."

Victims' ordeal, page 7



Bramble: gloried in the terror he inspired

Top staff to be axed in CPS shake-up

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST a third of the Crown Prosecution Service's most senior lawyers are to go in a bureaucratic shake-up aimed at improving its performance. A new inspectorate is also to be created to monitor the organisation's work.

The changes are recommended in a Whitehall review calling for 18 senior CPS posts — all held by lawyers — to be scrapped. That would cut the number of staff at the top of the service to 50.

Standards of prosecution work will meanwhile come under the scrutiny of an inspectorate charged with providing "quality assurance" and improving performance. This team, which will start work next year, will go around the regions and assess the quality of the CPS's "case-work". There will also be a new "strategy board" headed by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The reorganisation coincides with a separate review of the CPS's functions being planned by the Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, in response to police frustration and criticism from victims of crime over dropped prosecutions. Sir Nicholas has said that he is considering installing some CPS lawyers in police stations and giving the police an appeals mechanism when cases are dropped.

The CPS handles most prosecutions in England and Wales — 1.5 million a year — and the Whitehall review has emerged after a five-month consultation with staff in the 6,000-strong service, which employs 2,100 lawyers.

A longstanding bone of contention between the police and the service has been the number of prosecutions that are discontinued, the primary purpose for which the CPS was set up nine years ago. At present 11.7 per cent of cases are halted compared with 13.4 per cent two years ago.

David Nooney, the official in charge of implementing the changes, says in an interview in the *CPS Journal*: "First, the service was still developing and maturing and required time to absorb further change. Second, there was a need for a coherent focus to improve the quality of performance."

He insisted that the changes were not "primarily about reductions", but about "being better prpared to meet our current and future business needs". The review would "clarify roles and responsibilities, reduce bureaucracy and improve the quality of the services provided".

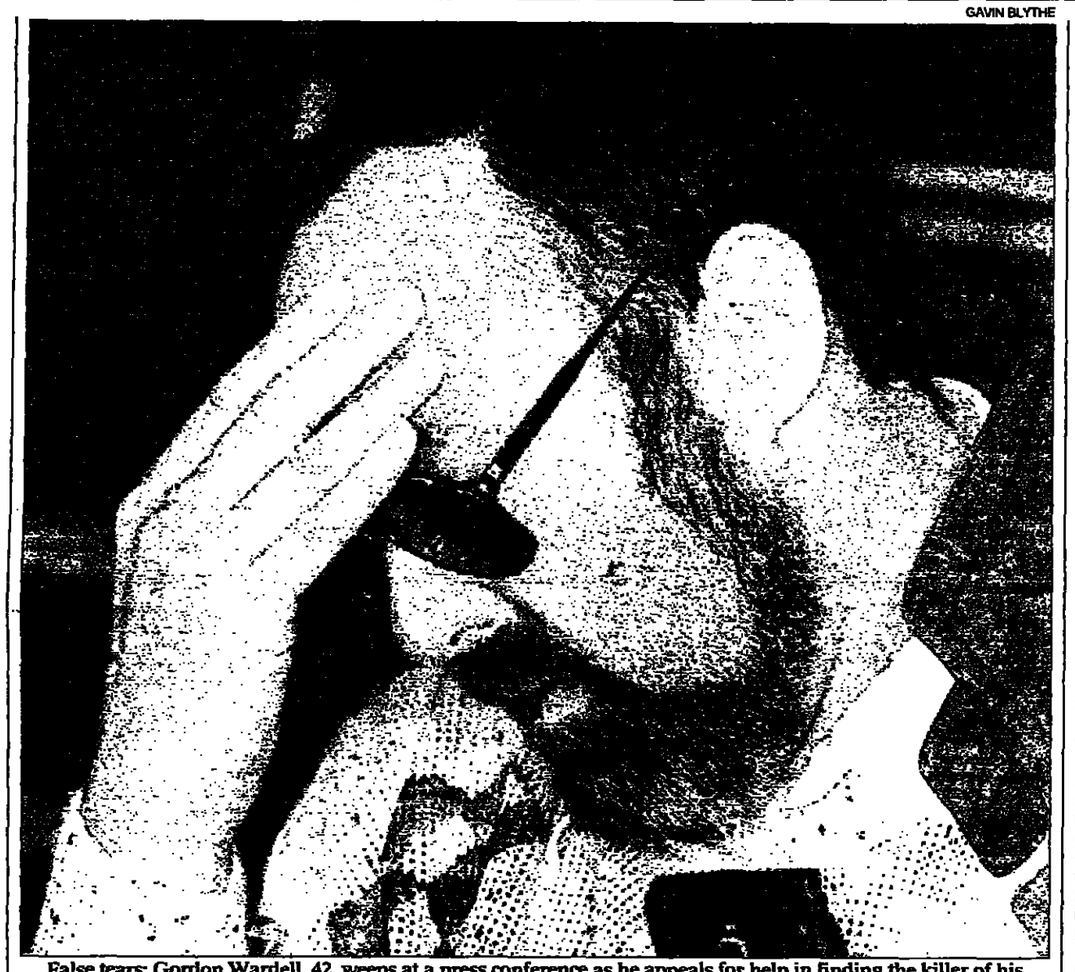
A key change is the plan to abolish the two assistant crown prosecutor posts in each CPS area — one responsible for casework, and the other for operations (staffing and budgets). Instead, one person will carry out both tasks.

Jacqui Nicholl, assistant secretary at the First Division Association, said: "We always argued that these functions should be combined — it made no sense to have them divided. But we are concerned that with one individual performing both, there may be pressure to concentrate on oeprations at the expense of the quality of the case-work decisions — the core work of the service."

The association was also concerned about the reduction of senior posts "on the ground" in the CPS regional areas, with an increase in staff at headquarters as part of the inspectorate.

Neil Addison, a former crown prosecutor and now a practising barrister, said: "These changes do not really get to the heart of what is wrong with the CPS. They need an external, not an internal review. Removing these posts is just fiddling; it does not really cut bureaucracy, just creates uncertainty in the lower ranks."

GAVIN BLYTHE



False tears: Gordon Wardell, 42, weeps at a press conference as he appeals for help in finding the killer of his wife Carol, a building society branch manager. Yesterday he was jailed for life for her murder. Report, Page 3

QC appointed for lottery inquiry

Anne Rafferty, QC, Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, is to head the inquiry into claims by Richard Branson that he was offered a bribe to pull out of the contest to run the National Lottery.

Mr Branson demanded last night that the role of Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, should also be examined ..... Pages 2, 19

Bosnia handover

Nato formally took over peacekeeping in Bosnia-Herzegovina from the United Nations, signalling the start of the biggest mission in the alliance's history. People in Sarajevo said Nato's involvement marked the beginning of "great hope". Troops immediately began patrolling the ceasefire lines..... Pages 11, 19

Major airs Wales divorce

BY ALAN HAMILTON

JOHN MAJOR yesterday spent an hour at Kensington Palace in private talks with the Princess of Wales on her marriage and future public role.

Neither Downing Street nor Buckingham Palace would say what had been discussed, but the Prime Minister is known not to favour any formal ambassadorial role for the Princess, an ambition she indicated in her *Panorama* interview last month. During his talks yesterday, Mr Major is also thought to have aired the question of divorce, but to have told the Princess that it is a matter entirely for the couple and not for the Government.

The meeting was arranged some time ago, and is one of several Mr Major has had with the Princess since her separation two years ago. The Prime Minister is also in regular contact with the Prince of Wales: their last meeting took place at St James's Palace last week.

During her television interview, the Princess staked a claim for a serious role as an ambassador for Britain, although she did not specify what she wished to do. Three days later she flew on a brief working visit to Argentina, visiting seven hospitals and clinics in three days and having lunch with President Menem.

MPs claimed at the time that the Princess had no experience or training for diplomacy, and also said that her presence in Buenos Aires did no more than add lustre to the personal standing of the President.

Since the *Panorama* interview there has been speculation that the divorce process will be speeded up to clear the air, but lawyers for both the Prince and Princess continue to insist that no serious discussion on the issue has taken place between the parties, and none is planned.

Mr Major is known to be sympathetic towards the Princess's desire for a role. After her *Panorama* interview he defended her against the outburst of Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister and a close friend of the Prince, who accused her, in a television discussion, of showing signs of paranoia.

Clarke blamed by Right for fish vote defeat

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Tory Right yesterday turned its fire on Kenneth Clarke after the Government's humiliating defeat over the European fisheries policy.

Leading figures threatened further mayhem for the Government unless John Major reined in his pro-European Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The MPs, who said that backbench anger over Mr Clarke's performance at the Madrid summit last weekend contributed to the revolt, renewed their pressure on the Prime Minister to rule out a single European currency in the life-time of the next Parliament.

They said Mr Major should confront Mr Clarke, even if that meant him leaving the Cabinet, and they issued a warning that the Chancellor's enthusiasm for economic and monetary union would cost the Tories the election. They predicted that Mr Clarke would be in a minority of one, without even the support of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, if Mr Major changed course.

Iain Duncan-Smith, a Maastricht rebel who supported the Government in the fishing vote, said it was time for Mr Major to come out clearly against a single currency. He said two-thirds of Tory MPs wanted the proposal dropped and that most of the rest would follow such a lead.

"If we don't come off the fence and carry on as we are, we will go from defeat to defeat, crisis to crisis," the MP for Chingford said yesterday. "Last night was about saying to the Government it's time we took a stand. We cannot carry on as we are."

In remarks clearly aimed at Mr Clarke, Mr Duncan-Smith added: "No individual should be allowed to stand in the way of the party embracing popular policies."

However, the Right appears to be facing an uphill struggle to persuade Mr Major to adopt a tougher stance over a single currency. Informed sources said yesterday that while a minority of his close advisers favoured ruling out a single currency, the majority supported the Prime Minister's view that such a step

Continued on page 2, col 6

Tory embarrassment, page 9
William Rees-Mogg, page 18

Teenager jumps to her death after hospital release

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

AN INVESTIGATION began yesterday into why a teenage girl who survived a fall under a train was released from hospital only to die after plunging from the fourth floor of a hotel the next night.

Jessica O'Riordan, 16, apparently tried to kill herself three times within two days in a pact with an 18-year-old friend, and her family last night criticised Southampton General Hospital for discharging her after she was pulled from under a goods train.

At 6.40pm on Monday, a policewoman found Jessica and her friend Sally Smith sitting on the edge of a 60 ft bridge over the River Itchen in Southampton, but the pair denied intending to throw themselves off.

The WPC drove them to Southampton Central railway station, where Jessica jumped under a moving goods train at 9pm. British Transport Police took her to Southampton General Hospital, but as she was unhurt, she was released into the care of her mother, Maureen. Mrs O'Riordan, of Brockenhurst, Hampshire, is separated from her solicitor husband, Kevin, who works abroad.

The next night Jessica attended a concert by the pop group Pulp in Bournemouth and afterwards went to the Marsham Court Hotel, where she fell from the fire escape.

Mrs O'Riordan refused to comment last night, but a family spokeswoman said: "We asked for her to be kept in at the hospital, but they said she was not hurt and she had to go home. They should have kept her in. It is what we wanted." The hospital insisted, however, that doctors had made the right decisions. Mrs O'Riordan had apparently satisfied them that Jessica was due to see a psychiatrist.

Hampshire Police also defended their actions, saying the WPC had spent "some considerable time" talking to the girls on the bridge and was assured they were looking at boats.

British Transport Police, however, expressed surprised that Jessica was allowed home from hospital when "by some miracle" she was unharmed by the goods engine that passed over her body as she lay between the rails. "Throwing yourself under a moving train is not a cry for help," a spokesman said.

Christopher Dixon-Box, owner of the Marsham Court Hotel, said his staff were alerted by Jessica's friend shortly after 11.30 pm on Tuesday. "She was clearly distressed and said that her friend had jumped from a fire escape. She said they had both decided to make a suicide pact and had been looking for somewhere to jump off." They had chosen the hotel when they could not get into the 11-storey block of flats next door.

Pop culture, page 5

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Fire and brimstone take the heat off Saint Peter

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

There could hardly have been a greater contrast between the two characters who featured in the exchange yesterday between Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, and the House. One of these characters was described by Mrs Bottomley, the backbenchers behind her offering similar descriptions.

The other was outlined in contributions from the Opposition benches, led by Labour's National Heritage spokesman, Jack Cunningham. By coincidence, both characters were called Peter Davis. First, let us examine the man Mrs Bottomley came to tell us about.

He was "open, honest and thorough", she said. Later, she added that he was "proper". Sir Ivan Lawrence (C, Burton) agreed, finding him "decent, honourable and successful". Mrs Bottomley went on to call this man "meticulous". He was also "effective".

From Mrs Bottomley and her supporters came a paean of praise for the man she credited with enormous achievements in raising money for charity. In her judgment he had been more successful at this than anyone else in the world. We began to wonder why we had never heard of this latter-day saint before, but put it down to his personal modesty. It was good of the Heritage Secretary to tell the world, before Christmas. We longed to shake his hand.

So much for this Peter Davis. But there was another.

Speaking for Labour and spluttering with moral indignation, Dr Cunningham described a fellow whose continuation in office was attracting "universal condemnation". Donald Anderson (Lab, Swansea E) went further: this man was "damaged goods".

Harry Barnes (Lab, Derbyshire NE) believed him to be dishonourable. Michael Martin (Lab, Springburn) said he was stupid. Someone else shouted that he was a "hyena". Most alarmingly of all, Mr Anderson attributed to him "the smell factor".

Two men, then. One decent, honourable, successful, meticulous and effective. The other a dishonourable, stupid, damaged, smelly hyena. Could they by any chance be related? Would their mothers have recognised them from these accounts?

That MPs were in fact discussing the same man, the regulator of the National Lottery, would be hard for any observer, let alone his mother, to believe.

Yet that is the unreality which Commons debate can create. This was the House's last serious exchange before Christmas. It provided, in festive vignette, a gruesome case-study for 1995.

The problem is getting worse. "New" Labour's habit of injecting moral outrage into every nook and cranny of debate has the paradoxical effect of letting the Government off the hook.

In the face of demands that she account for the fact that Mr Davis's wife shared antenatal classes with the wife of a director of GTech, twenty years ago, and a Labour demand that she describe how such friendships had proceeded since then, Mrs Bottomley sounded common-sense, assured; Opposition criticism overheated. "McCarthyite," protested Mrs B, and the charge struck a chord. "Mean and nasty!" shouted one Tory.

And it was. Inclined at the outset to wonder whether Mr Davis did have the required judgment, I had swung by the end to resenting his assailants more.

If Cunningham and his team had raised an eyebrow, rather than the roof, they could have made Mrs Bottomley look feeble. In the face of Opposition fire and brimstone, she simply looked level-headed.

Holloway jail chief expected to leave

Janet King, the governor of Holloway jail, is expected to leave her post in the New Year after the Chief Inspector of Prisons described conditions at the prison as "unacceptably low".

Two male governors are being tipped as potential successors to Ms King. Her position at the north London prison is considered to be untenable since the Chief Inspector of Prisons, General Sir David Ramsbotham, took the unprecedented step of halting an inspection at the jail and calling for "immediate improvements".

Council cleared

An independent inquiry into allegations of nepotism and sectarianism at Monklands District Council in Glasgow has found no evidence of wrongdoing despite the town hall payroll including 48 relatives of councillors. Fifteen councillors who had been suspended by the Labour Party now look certain to be reinstated. The late John Smith was MP for the area.

Snow hope

Snow on Christmas Day in London is a possibility, weathermen said yesterday. Snow showers are expected in Scotland and the North East and a drop in temperature in the South could result in a fall. If a flake hits the roof of the Weather Centre one man who bet £3,500 with Ladbrokes stands to win £28,000.

Forecast, page 24

Magazine move

Philip Jeffrey, the majority shareholder of the *New Statesman & Society*, said that he would be willing to "buy back" the magazine, which is being put into administration after continuing losses. Mr Jeffrey's initial refinancing plan had been blocked by the title's five trustees, who were appointed to ensure its editorial independence.

Lawyer jailed

Graham Durnford Ford, head of a law firm with offices in Sussex, Kent and London, was jailed for ten years yesterday at Maidstone Crown Court for stealing more than £5 million from dead clients and charities. Durnford Ford, 52, from Battle, admitted ten specimen charges of theft. After his arrest his firm collapsed with the loss of 230 jobs.

Christmas thief

A shoplifter who dressed as Santa Claus to mingle with Christmas shoppers was given 12 months' probation, fined £50 and ordered to do 60 hours' community service. Patrick Houghton, 30, of Norwich, admitted two charges of theft at the city's magistrates' court. He was found carrying a teddy bear, two cheeses, a chicken, and two balloons on sticks.

GCHQ ban eased

Moves to allow employees at the Government's GCHQ intelligence centre to belong to an independent union of GCHQ staff, or a staff federation, were announced by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, in a Commons written reply yesterday. However, industrial action will not be allowed. Union membership was banned under Mrs Thatcher in 1984.

Dog reprieved

A death sentence on a dog called Sinbad was lifted yesterday when a judge said it was not a dangerous pit bull terrier, but more of an English bull terrier. The dog's owner, Roy Lias, 30, of York, was convicted of not registering the dog under the Dangerous Dogs Act, but appealed against the sentence to save it from being destroyed.

MPs seek safeguard as MI5 takes on new role

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MI5 OFFICERS investigating organised crime, the new role for the Security Service, must not be allowed to operate "independently and unseen", a senior all-party committee said yesterday.

The need for accountability and proper authorisation for any action taken by MI5 against organised criminal gangs was emphasised in a report to John Major by the parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee which is responsible for overseeing MI5, MI6 and GCHQ, the Government's secret communications headquarters.

The Security Service Bill published yesterday states that MI5 will be able to act "in support of the prevention and detection of serious crime". The Bill is expected to become law early next year.

Tom King, chairman of the supervisory committee, welcomed the new role for MI5, but added: "It is vital that arrangements are absolutely clear as to how it will operate, in particular that the Security Service is working in support of the police and Customs and not as an independent force in this field."

The announcement was first made by the Prime Minister at the Tory party conference in October when it was emphasised that, unlike the counter-terrorist role where MI5 has primacy over the police in Britain, the Security Service would only be "assisting" the law enforcement agencies in tackling organised crime.

Mr King, the former Defence Secretary, said there were several areas that had to be resolved, including the manner in which MI5 officers would give evidence for the prosecution at trials, and the procedure under which warrants would be issued for telephone tapping and entering suspects' houses.

He listed a number of areas where MI5 could become involved, including drug trafficking, money laundering, counterfeiting, extortion, smuggling and international fraud.

Leading article, page 19

Steel compromise bolsters Ulster peace efforts

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN MAJOR will pay a pre-Christmas visit to Belfast and Dublin today after settling a dispute over aid for the Irish steel industry.

The Prime Minister will meet John Bruton in a further attempt to maintain the momentum of the peace process, which has been threatened anew by a series of killings in Northern Ireland. There are growing fears among the security forces that the IRA is embarking on a purge of drug dealers in the Province.

Mr Major's visit to Dublin was given the go-ahead after a compromise in the dispute over British objections to subsidies for a steelworks in Cork. The sale of Irish Steel to an Indian group, Ispat International, required the approval of all 15 European Union governments because it involved an injection of about £28 million in state aid, which is notifiable to Brussels under EU rules. British ministers objected because they said the deal would threaten British jobs and create unfair competition for them.

But Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said last night that the deal protected jobs at Irish Steel but not at the expense of jobs in Britain.

As Mr Major prepared for his one-day trip to Belfast, unionist politicians called on the Government to declare the murder of three men in less than a fortnight a breach of the IRA ceasefire.

Ken Maginnis, defence spokesman for the Ulster Unionist Party, described the murders as a blatant breach. Security sources said they believed the IRA was behind the murder of Christopher "Sid" Johnston, who was shot outside his house in the nationalist Lower Ormeau area of south Belfast on Tuesday night.

Mr Johnston, a drugs dealer, was murdered 24 hours after Francis Collins, another drugs dealer, was shot dead in the city. Paul Devine, 35, recently released from a jail sentence for drug offences, was shot on December 8 in south Belfast.

Unionists, who were angry that Sir Patrick Mayhew failed to raise the shootings in his meeting on Tuesday with Gerry Adams, believe the Government is reluctant to question republicans for fear of risking its talks with Sinn Fein. Security sources say, however, that the IRA cannot be condemned publicly until the police can provide firm evidence of its involvement.

Speaking after an Anglo-Irish conference in Dublin with Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, Sir Patrick condemned the killings and said they underlined the importance of removing illegal weapons from Northern Ireland.

The two ministers clashed over unionist proposals to establish an elected assembly. Sir Patrick said that Britain would look very favourably at any means of bringing people together to talk about complex matters. But Mr Spring said that the proposal, promoted by the Ulster Unionists and Democratic Unionists, had serious flaws.

☐ Two men were convicted yesterday of murdering Margaret Wright, a Protestant who was stripped, tortured and shot four times in the head in a loyalist band hall at Easter 1994. They will be sentenced in the new year.

Loyalist jailed for ten years

A loyalist who had talks with the Government in the Progressive Unionist Party delegation this year was jailed for ten years for conspiring to run guns to the Ulster Volunteer Force, at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday.

Lindsay Robb, 28, of Lurgan, Co Armagh, and two others, both from Scotland, were found guilty at the High Court in Glasgow two weeks ago of soliciting other persons to make available and to acquire arms and ammunition with the intention of endangering life.

IRA uses murder to stamp authority on drug trade

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE murder of three Belfast drug dealers within two weeks highlights the terrorists' determination to maintain control of the drug trade in nationalist areas.

Security sources believe that the IRA is attacking drug dealers to protect an important source of income. They scoff at claims by some republicans that the IRA has a moral duty to stamp out "anti-social elements". One source said that the IRA licenses drug dealers, who pay a percentage of their takings to operate in nationalist areas.

The IRA also has a political motive for shooting drug dealers. Many republicans fear that it has begun to lose its grip on nationalist areas since the ceasefire. Killing "social offenders" sends an unequivocal message to anyone thinking of defying IRA authority.

Detectives investigating the deaths of the five alleged drug dealers murdered in Belfast since April cannot go into details of how or whether any of the latest victims crossed the IRA. However, security sources have little doubt that the men were victims of carefully planned IRA attacks.

Bill Stewart, the Assistant Chief Constable in charge of the RUC in Belfast, came close to blaming the IRA for the attacks yesterday. "Certainly these murders have been carried out with the same degree of meticulous planning and ruthless execution common to killings previously claimed by paramilitary gangs," he said.

Respected QC will head lottery inquiry

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND FRANCES GIBB

ANNE RAFFERTY, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, will head an inquiry into claims by Richard Branson that he was offered a bribe to pull out of the contest to run the National Lottery.

She is one of the handful of women who have reached the top at the Bar, and won the acclaim of colleagues earlier this year when she was elected to head the influential 2,000-strong Criminal Bar Association, the first woman to hold the post.

Mr Branson said last night that the inquiry, which begins next month, should also examine the role of Peter Davis, the National Lottery regulator, in awarding the lottery contract to Camelot.

Mr Davis, who fought off calls for his resignation after he admitted accepting flights from GTech, the American company behind the Camelot consortium, has been accused by Mr Branson of not vetting the company properly or checking on fraud allegations against some of its employees, before awarding the contract.

In a letter to Mr Davis last night, Mr Branson also called for the inquiry to sit in public, saying it would fail to command public confidence if it was held in private.

The inquiry was set up last week by Mr Davis after Mr Branson said that Guy Snowden, chairman of GTech, tried to bribe him, an accusation denied by Mr Snowden. Mr Davis later denied further claims by Mr Branson that he had been told of the allegation. Mr Davis made clear yesterday that the inquiry would focus on the meeting between Mr Branson and Mr Snowden in September 1993.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, yesterday vigorously defended her decision to keep Mr Davis in his post. She told the Commons that, although Mr Davis had been unwise to accept free flights from GTech, "he declared his interests appropriately. There has been no question of his having sought or received personal gain from the visits which he undertook.

"He has assured me that there are no other issues which may come to light subsequently which could affect my decision in this matter."

Jack Cunningham, Shadow National Heritage Secretary, accused Mr Davis and Mrs Bottomley of showing "an abysmal lack of judgment" and called for a code of conduct for regulators of private monopolies to avoid further controversies.

Senior ministers had told Mrs Bottomley that to dismiss Mr Davis could spark a witch-hunt of regulators of privatised industries and public servants. Before declaring her backing for Mr Davis, Mrs Bottomley had discussions with Cabinet colleagues.

She is said to have been swayed by Mr Davis's openness in declaring all details of flights and hospitality and by the fact that his integrity had never been challenged. A colleague said: "The easy decision would have been to cave in to media pressure but she has stood firm and done what she believes to be right, not what is immediately popular."



Anne Rafferty will lead the inquiry called by Peter Davis, below left, into allegations by Richard Branson





Compensation plan for drought victims

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

WATER companies should be required by law to pay compensation of up to £100 when supplies are disrupted or cut off in droughts, the industry regulator said yesterday. But Ian Byatt, Director-General of the Office of Water Services, drew the line at compensating unmetered households under hosepipe bans.

The proposals for compensation, published in a consultation document, accompany fears that the situation in 1996 will be worse than 1995.

Under the existing rules customers can claim £10 every time their service falls below a set standard. But the scheme does not include refunds during droughts.

Mr Byatt said under a revised scheme customers would be paid £10 a day up to a maximum of a £100 if supplies were rationed by rota cuts or standpipes.

Companies such as car washes and garden centres banned from "non-essential" use would be able to claim compensation for financial loss.

Right blames Clarke

Continued from page 1

would shatter the fragile Cabinet truce over Europe and derail the Government's efforts to persuade its European partners of the dangers of monetary union.

Mr Clarke is to represent Britain in the European study of the practical implications of having one group of countries using a single currency and another group excluded.

The Prime Minister privately hopes that the report, due in the second half of next year, will check the momentum towards EMU. The Chancellor, however, does not appear to share his doubts about such an approach.

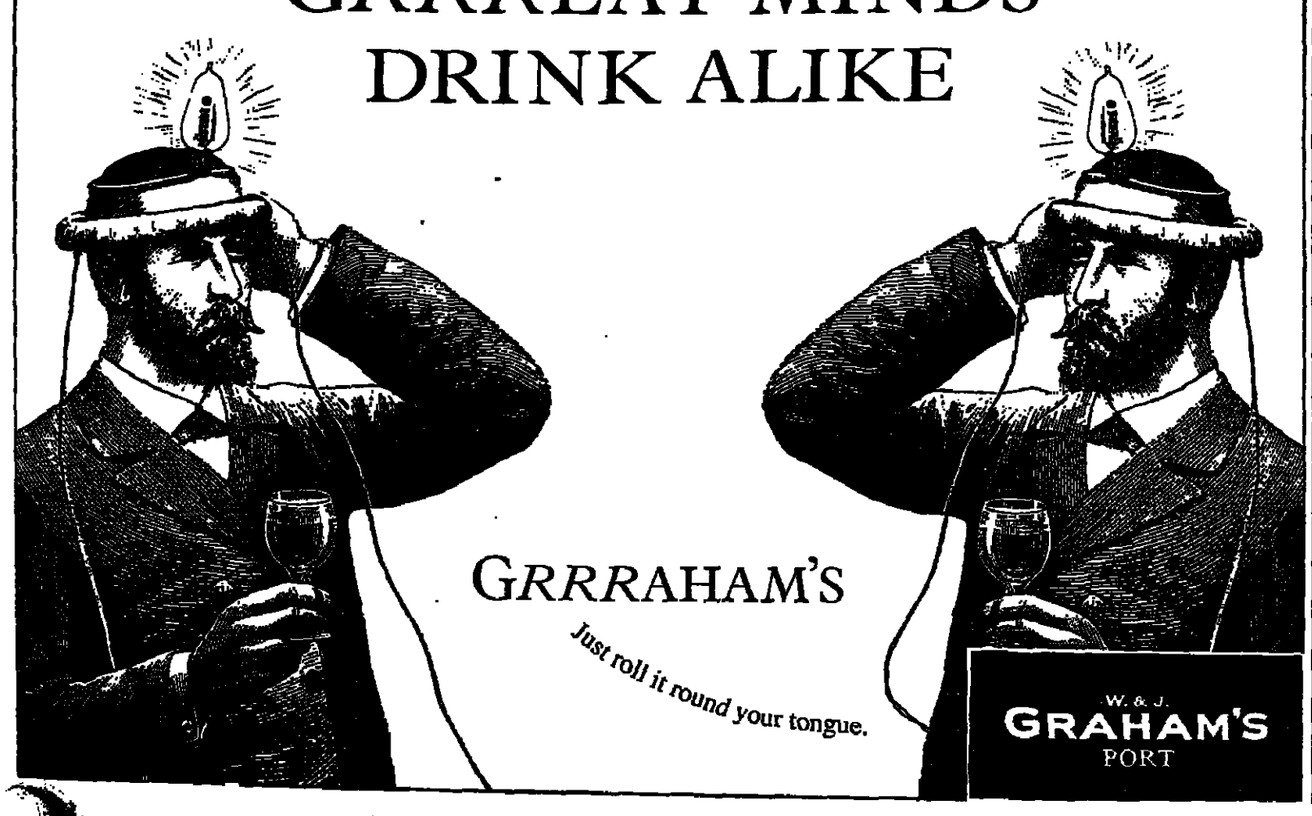
As Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, prepared for today's talks in Brussels over further cuts in catches, Mr Heseltine told BBC Radio 4 that the rebels were risking a Labour government that would "abandon all the safeguards that John Major had secured in Europe".

Tory embarrassment, page 9
Letters, page 19

☐ Mr John Ward MP asks us to make clear that, contrary to a report (December 11), he is still Parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister. We apologise for the error, and also for wrongly attributing to Mr Ward views on the character of the House of Commons which he does not hold.

☐ It was the Savings and Investment Bank, based in the Isle of Man, which closed in 1982 and not the Isle of Man Bank, which is a subsidiary of NatWest Group (City Diary, December 15).

GRRREAT MINDS
DRINK ALIKE



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Psychologist says killer sought 'aggressive, dominant and deviant sexual satisfaction'

Life for man who faked ambush to hide wife's murder

BY ADRIAN LEE

SCHEMING husband Gordon Wardell was jailed for life yesterday for the murder of his wife Carol, a building society manageress.

Wardell, 42, had faked an elaborate ambush at his home and then a robbery at his wife's office to cover up his crime. He later went on national television to plead tearfully for help in catching his wife's killers.

After returning its unanimous verdict at Oxford Crown Court, the jury was told that Wardell had a previous conviction, imposed when he was 17, for wounding when he lured a teacher's wife to a wood and stabbed her in the neck.

Wardell, who had claimed the gang attacked him then kidnapped his wife Carol, 39, was described as an extremely dangerous, evil and devious man by the trial judge.

As the verdict was announced Carol Wardell's mother Joan Heslop, 67, from Coventry, whispered: "Oh, thank God." Afterwards she said her son-in-law deserved a death sentence. She said she had had a "mother's intuition" that he was guilty.

Wardell, a warehouse manager from Meriden, West Midlands, showed no emotion other than to raise his eyes and blink repeatedly. After the case police, praised by Mr Justice Cresswell for their investigation, said he might now be questioned in relation to other unsolved crimes. They include the disappearance of two women.

Mrs Wardell's body was found in a lay-by in September last year. Her husband claimed he was bound, beaten and gagged by a gang, then tied up leaving him unable to move for 16 hours after being attacked when he returned home from posting a letter.

The prosecution said he stole £14,126 from the Woolwich Building Society in Nuneaton, where his wife worked, then left one of her sandals at the scene.

Speaking after the verdict, Mrs Wardell's family and Warwickshire police expressed their satisfaction. Mrs Heslop said: "A light has gone out of our lives never to return, but justice has been done. Carol will be able to rest in peace now. She loved life and was full of life. To have it taken it away so tragically in such a way was terrible.

"It has been a nightmare for myself and the rest of the family. I can assure you all it will never be the same. I dread to think what we would have done if the verdict had gone the other way."

Mrs Heslop said her doubts about her son-in-law's innocence began the day after Mrs Wardell's funeral. She said: "I had my own suspicions but I felt guilty for feeling such things. Something told me it was Gordon."

Mrs Heslop said she would never know if Carol was aware of her husband's conviction and four-year prison term for his attack on the woman.

Mrs Heslop, who shared her home with Wardell for three weeks after the killing, all the time believing he and her daughter had had a happy marriage, said words could not now express her feelings towards him.

The jigsaw of lies that refused to fit

DESPITE Gordon Wardell's minutely detailed plans to cover his guilt, detectives found several pieces of the jigsaw would just not fit.

His story about a gang of hardened criminals who were willing to kill for money began to worry police. If the motive had been cash why had they chosen such a rural building society branch? Why had they taken only about £14,000 from the safe?

Why had the supposed gang not tried to rip off Carol Wardell's gold rings and chain or steal goods from the house?

Mrs Wardell had used a personalised code to enter the branch's staff areas but she had been trained that in a raid she should use a different code.

On Wardell himself, hospital staff could find only superficial injuries. It was proved that he could have tied himself, and anaesthetists said it would have been almost impossible for him to have been knocked out for 12 hours as claimed.

Wardell claimed Carol had eaten at about 7pm, giving her three hours to digest it before her alleged ordeal. Undigested food was found in her stomach.

NEWS TEAM INTERNATIONAL



Gordon and Carol Wardell on their wedding day in 1982. Her mother, with whom he stayed after the killing, felt intuitively that he was guilty of murdering his wife

Wardell stabbed first victim when he was seventeen

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT AND ADRIAN LEE

A WOMAN who was stabbed by Gordon Wardell when he was 17 recalled her ordeal as he awaited trial for murder. Brenda Hayes, now 58 and the mother of three children, was married to Wardell's geology teacher, Peter, when the teenager lured her to an isolated spot in June 1970, squirted de-icer in her face and stabbed her.

She needed nine pints of blood, and still bears the scars of her injuries. The couple moved away from Solihull to escape the memory of the attack. Wardell telephoned Mrs Hayes one Sunday afternoon while her husband, who had taught Wardell for three years, was out on a field trip. "He told me he had found a plant that Peter wanted and could I collect it because he was on his bike and couldn't manage it," she said.

She was directed to an isolated country lane and waited with her two young sons, who were in the back of the car. Wardell arrived minutes later. "He grabbed me from behind and put a sheath knife to my throat. I thought I would pass out. He then said he was Paul Newman and said he wanted money."

They returned to the car, where, over the next 30 minutes, Wardell became increasingly angry and erratic, stopping and starting the car. "I knew he was on a short fuse and the violence was just there, waiting," she said.

He tied Mrs Hayes's hands behind her back and hit her on the head before leaping out of the car and slashing one of the front tyres. "He stabbed me as he was standing outside the car — once in the back of the neck and once just above the collar bone on the right side of my neck. I started bleeding profusely. I remember thinking 'I'm too young to die'." Mrs Hayes managed to shut the passenger door. "I pressed my neck to stop the bleeding and then he was at the door again, hitting the glass with the handle of the knife, trying to break it so I just drove off and stopped someone who called an ambulance."

Mrs Hayes was in intensive care for three weeks. The wounds damaged her nervous system and she still has scars around her neck. Wardell was arrested and charged with attempted murder, but pleaded guilty at Warwick Crown Court to a reduced charge of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. He was jailed for four years.

"In my opinion he intended to kill me. I can't say I've forgiven him," Mrs Hayes said. "I can't understand why he chose me. It's terrible that it's had to happen again."

Her husband said: "As a schoolboy he was introverted and nothing stood out about him. It's sad that a woman has had to die for the point to be made and that he didn't get help in the first place."



Brenda Hayes: stabbed when Wardell was 17

Police investigate links with prostitute killings in the Midlands

BY ADRIAN LEE AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

GORDON WARDELL may be interviewed in prison about unsolved crimes in the Midlands, including the murder of prostitutes. During their investigation into the death of Carol Wardell, detectives established links between her husband and prostitutes working in the Coventry area.

The prosecution at Wardell's trial said he and his wife of 12 years had not had sex for six months before her murder. "He found his entertainment elsewhere, let's put it that way," an officer involved in the case said.

Senior officers from three forces have already discussed Wardell's possible involvement in the murder of Barbara Flynn, a prostitute in Coventry, and the disappearance of Nicola Payne, 19, from Coventry, who was not a prostitute.

Detective Superintendent Tony Bayliss, who headed the Wardell murder inquiry, said: "There is a possibility that Gordon Wardell will be questioned about other matters." He described him as a ruthless individual and the investigation into the murder of his wife as the most difficult and exhaustive inquiry he had worked on.

Paul Britton, a forensic psychologist called in by Warwickshire Police, concluded that Wardell was interested in "aggressive, dominant and deviant sexual satisfaction."

Mr Britton, based in Leicester, played a prominent role in the Frederick West case. He said yesterday he believed it would be "prudent" for detectives to look at Wardell's movements in relation to other unsolved crimes.

"This is a man for whom there have been two episodes of gross violence in his life. It is highly unlikely there has been a silence between those two periods. I would suggest that between those two offences you have the probability of a range of other crimes. Some may be sexual and there is no reason why they should not involve violence."

Mr Britton said he was told by police that Wardell was a member of the Institute of Logistics. "That made sense of his attempt to manage the logistics of this offence. What you have is a person who is extremely deviant and devious. He believed he was good enough to put together a story that would convince the police and lead elsewhere. But he was inept in its detail."

He said Wardell's involvement in other serious crimes was "certainly discussed" with Warwickshire Police and it is thought they will look at a number of vice-related killings.

Superintendent Bayliss said: "This was an unusual case in that the death came first and the planning afterwards. The death itself may have been a spontaneous act but the fact that he was then able to sit down and calmly plan what he was going to do shows what sort of a man he is. Most people in that situation would have panicked but he was very cool."

For almost a week after the murder, Wardell was not a suspect. His story that he had been drugged, bound, beaten and gagged by a gang of four robbers was plausible. But officers involved in the inquiry began to have their suspicions.

Two days after his wife's body was found, Wardell appeared in a wheelchair at a press conference. Every breath seemed to be an effort as he appealed for information about the gang and described his wife's murderers as "totally evil".

At the end of that week, a doctor treating Wardell told police he believed the injuries Wardell had suffered, including punches to the stomach, were self-inflicted.

Wardell's conviction as a teenager for luring a teacher's wife to a secluded spot, where he attacked her, pointed to a darker side in his character. "That was only an indicator but it was clearly something that needed following up and showed what he had been capable of," Superintendent Bayliss said.

Mrs Wardell's relatives said that Wardell hid his previous conviction from his wife. Her brother, Tony Heslop, of Rugby, Warwickshire, said: "The family knew nothing of his past. The first we heard of it was when it was brought out at the press conference. I was staggered. I am sure Carol did not know what sort of man he had really been and I have no doubt she knew nothing about the prostitutes. She was very naive in that sense."

Wardell's elderly parents, Frank and Betty, of Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, refuse to believe their son is a killer and say they will stand by him.

"The case was all speculation," Mr Wardell, 72, said.

Mrs Wardell, 68, a retired home economics and needlework teacher who once taught Carol Wardell, said: "I spoke to Carol on the morning she died and she was laughing and joking. They had just been on holiday to Jersey. Gordon had bought a necklace and earrings for Carol. Are those the actions of someone who was going to kill his wife?"

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Music and television heroes may unlock the inhibitions of suicidal youth

Pop culture blamed for decline in teen spirit

BY JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

POP stars and other heroes of popular culture exert a growing influence on the lives of teenagers, an academic said yesterday after the suicide of a 16-year-old pop fan.

Jessica O'Riordan saw the band *Pulp the evening before* she fell to her death from a hotel fire escape after apparently making a suicide pact with a friend.

Jarvis Cocker, the charismatic lead singer of Pulp, disclosed recently that he had spent several months in a wheelchair after jumping from a building to impress a girl. Pulp are better known for singing about drug-related hedonism, however, rather than the suicidal angst made famous by bands such as the late Kurt Cobain's Nirvana.

Professor *Leslie Francis*, of Trinity College, Carmarthen, who has studied the reasons behind a sharp rise in teenage suicides, said the breakdown of traditional moral frameworks appeared to be responsible.

Family and church, which had acted as restraining forces, had declined in influence, leaving pop music and television to fill the void. He said they appeared to affect young people with suicidal tendencies, even if they did not *overtly encourage the act*.

"Hero figures can give permission to put into practice ideas that young people have developed but normally feel inhibited to carry out," Professor Francis said.

Cocker was unavailable for comment on the death of Jessica, a solicitor's daughter from Brockenhurst, Hampshire. He told the magazine *Time Out* in October that his own jump, in which he suffered a broken pelvis and right leg, happened ten years ago as he was "trying to impress a girl".



Pulp celebrate the excesses of teenage life. The band's lead singer, Jarvis Cocker, second left, once leapt from a building to impress a girl

A spokesman for the band said: "I could not see him trying to glamorise suicide *like some singers do. He is one* of those people who has built himself up from nothing after being on the dole for ten years. He is not one to get morbid."

Pulp's lyrics contain little to glamorise suicide although they are full of evocative *images. Feeling Called Love* describes the emotion as "I've got a slightly sick feeling in my stomach like I'm standing on top of a very high building", and *Monday Morning* says "They say the past must die for the future to be born, in that case die little mother".

Sorted for E's & Whizz, which provoked an outcry for its references to drug-taking, ends: "In the middle of the night it feels alright but then tomorrow morning, Oh, then you come down ... What if you never come down?"

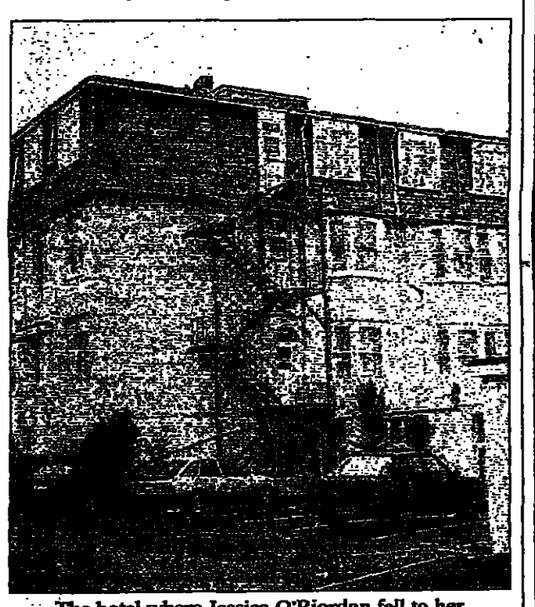
The Samaritans says that the drop in suicides overall, from 4,935 in 1982 to 4,628 in 1992, masks an increase *among 15 to 24-year-olds. It* estimates that women are twice as likely as men to attempt suicide and young women nine times as likely.

The most frequently discussed problems in calls made by young people to the Samaritans *concern relationships*, coping with bereavement and fear of the future. Suicide attempts accounted for about 80,000 casualty cases in hospitals last year, and were one of the most common reasons for the admission of teenage girls. But *young men are much* more likely to succeed at suicide. When Nirvana's Kurt Cobain shot himself in April last year, fans flooded the music press with letters claiming him as the role model for a generation and America suffered a bout of copycat suicides. Many British teenagers developed a similar obsession with the fate of Richey James, of the Manic Street Preachers, who disappeared earlier this year.

Dr Michael Gallagher, head of clinical psychology at Hull and Holderness Community Health NHS Trust, said: "Often victims have *much lower self-esteem than* anyone suspects. Greater access to the means to commit suicide, such as alcohol and drugs, means that impulsive decisions can prove fatal."

The phenomenon of rising suicide rates was likely to continue, Professor Francis said. "It is not an issue to be taken lightly. We may have to address it more expensively, through schools and counselling, if old methods are not going to work."

Jessica is believed to have tried to end her life three times *within two days. On Monday* evening she was found sitting on the edge of a 60ft bridge. Later she apparently jumped under a goods train but escaped injury. The next night, after attending the Pulp concert, she fell from the fire escape at the Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth.



The hotel where Jessica O'Riordan fell to her death the day after attending a Pulp concert

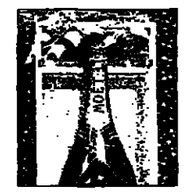
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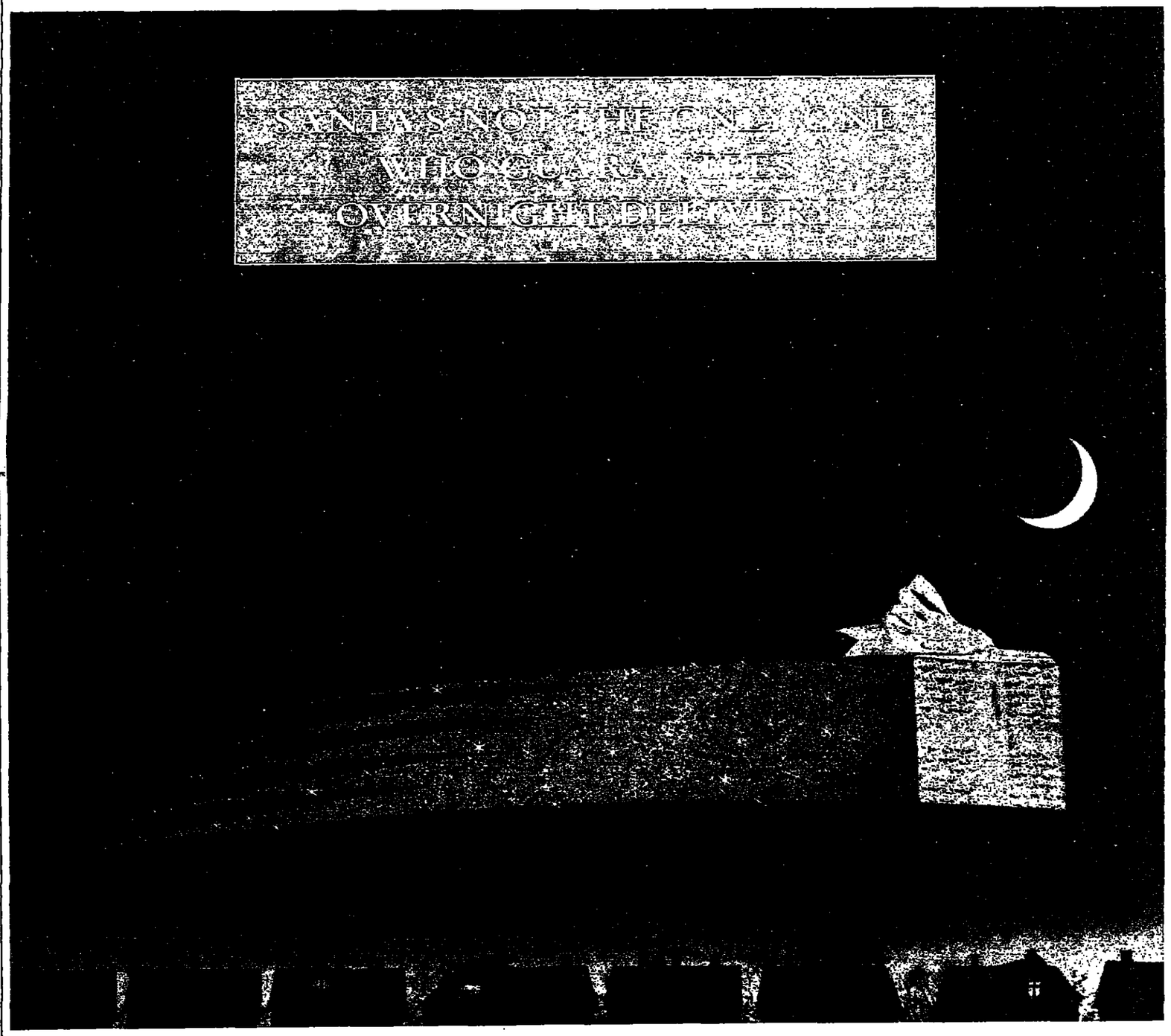
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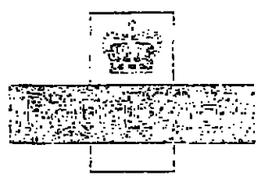
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Female workers ignored, patronised or bullied says survey

Sexist City men divide women into babes, mums and dragons

BY CATHERINE MILTON AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

WOMEN working in the City of London are still judged by their looks with male colleagues using a string of derisory terms to rank them according to their sexual potential, psychologists were told yesterday.

A Cambridge graduate who went undercover to investigate chauvinism in the City found men had drawn up their own dictionary of terms categorising their female peers as "babes", "mums" or, if they appeared to be feminist, "lesbians".

Sexually attractive "babes" were patronised while those unfortunate enough to be deemed "dragons" or "mums" were pressurised into performing menial tasks for male colleagues.

The findings come against a backdrop of high-profile industrial tribunals where senior city women have claimed unfair dismissal or sexual harassment. But many women working in the financial sector yesterday defended the City. They said the atmosphere on trading floors was aggressive and men were just as likely to be on the receiving end of an insult as women.

Belinda Brooks-Gordon, a student at the Institute of Criminolgy in Cambridge, told the British Psychological Society that she spent a day undercover on the floor of the International Petroleum Exchange in London and interviewed female and male traders. She said men appeared to place women within five different categories.

"Babes" were young and attractive women who were treated courteously by men but viewed as decorative and professionally irrelevant.

Women that the men considered unattractive were branded "mums" while a woman who competed with men colleagues by spending long hours in the office and behaving aggressively was regarded as "one of the boys". Women who expressed support for feminist causes were



Leonard: "Men take as much stick as women"

defined as "lesbians", while those who were old or plain were considered "dragons" and treated with derision.

Once categorised, a woman was treated accordingly and either ignored, patronised or bullied, Miss Brooks-Gordon said. One employer she interviewed did not disapprove of the behaviour of his male traders. Miss Brooks-Gordon said the ranking system she uncovered had implications for all women in male-dominated occupations who are undermined by the behaviour of male colleagues.

City businesswomen contacted by *The Times* last night said that while the picture painted by Miss Brooks-Gordon was not inaccurate, the lexicon of insults was not specific to women and anyone entering a city profession had to be resilient.

Carol Leonard, a director at Norman Broadbent International, a leading headhunting firm, said: "The city is famed for its lavatorial humour and machismo spirit but the men take a lot of stick as much as the women. It is often meant in good humour and should be taken as such."

Elizabeth Sullivan, who was the second woman ever to work on the stock exchange and who now runs her own headhunting firm, said the City had come a long way in the past 20 years. "When I started women were a five-minute wonder and were treated as such but a lot of guys had a rough ride too. Many men still behave condescendingly towards female colleagues but most are reasonable if you give as good as you get."

One male city broker said: "I think ribbing your colleagues is endemic to the sort of people who are attracted to trading. It is a bullying atmosphere, but it's the same for everyone, although I can see how a room full of 30 men and two women would be worse for a woman."

Last month, Helen Bamber, a City bond dealer for the Japanese firm Fuji Finance International, won a claim for sex discrimination after a tribunal decided she had been overlooked for promotion and training.

Her case followed that of Samantha Phillips, a trainee broker, who won £18,000 for unfair dismissal against a Lloyd's firm last year. She was dismissed after rejecting the advances of a married colleague and claimed she was called a bimbo.



PETER TREVNOR

Brooks-Gordon: spent the day working undercover in London dealing rooms

Shops boom as plastic hits 100 sales a second

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

SHOPS enjoyed a surge in sales last weekend as credit card purchases reached a record rate.

Barclays, which processes electronic credit and debit card purchases for a third of retailers, was handling 100 transactions per second last Saturday. This is the highest figure recorded but reflects an increase in the use of computers as well as extra purchasing by consumers.

Still, the busy Saturday has led to a forecast that there will be no last-minute rush this year, with much of the serious shopping already completed.

Barclaycard users are spending 12 per cent more than last year, based on sales from November 30 to December 19. This comes after a rise in spending last Christmas of 10 per cent.

Yet the "feel good" factor may still be eluding the British public. When they were asked in a survey by Barclays how much they intended to spend this Christmas, they said it would be less than last year. "People are being quite gloomy but when we look at the high street it's not as bad as many people would expect," Barclays said.

Decadence is out of fashion this year with the trend firmly towards sensible gifts. "People are going to be opening useful presents rather than throw away items on Christmas Day," said Ruth Parkhouse of the British Retail Consortium, which represents 90 per cent of retailers.

Computers are being bought as investments for all the family. Perfume gift sets are selling well, as are sweaters, scarves, socks and tights. The top sellers in children's wear are pyjamas and dressing gowns. Medium-priced lingerie is popular. The one luxury clothing item to survive the outbreak of common sense is ladies' evening wear.

Book sales are soaring because of discounting. Engraved pens have been selling well and Australian wine is a success in off-licences.

The British Hardware Federation said small power tools were much in demand. "A lot of people are going to be encouraged to do DIY in the new year," Ms Parkhouse said.



Eileen Connors, her husband and daughter at Gatwick

Free bar blamed for flight havoc

BY ROBIN YOUNG

A FAMILY involved in mid-air mayhem on a flight to America arrived back in Britain yesterday complaining that the airline had been too generous with its free drinks.

Three generations of the Cash family, from Kilburn in north London, had been starting a £1,000-a-head Christmas holiday on a Northwest Airlines flight from Gatwick to Los Angeles. They were said to have created havoc on the flight, throwing food and yelling for drink, until the three most intoxicated were overpowered and handcuffed to their seats by amateur wrestlers on board.

Grandmother Eileen Cash said at Gatwick: "There was maybe a scuffle at the back of the plane but it was nothing too bad. We feel ashamed and embarrassed over it. They gave us drink on the plane. They should not have."

Her daughter, Eileen Connors, said: "We are embarrassed by what happened. We were just a bit noisy, we never did anything." She added: "The children were very disappointed. It was a Christmas holiday. They gave us a lot of drink. Why were they giving out drink? People will get drunk, people are not used to drinking shorts.

"We were just friends going on holiday. I do not know whether we will ever get our money back. I certainly do not ever want to go back."

Her sister, Bridget Cash, said: "I think we were treated very unfairly. They kept giving us drink and then there was a bit of trouble on the plane. I do not want to talk about it."

Patrick Cash, 47, who was handcuffed and put in an immigration cell, said he was asleep when the trouble started and took no part in it. "I have been to hell and back. The way we were treated was just ridiculous."

Last night the family said they were hoping to re-arrange their holiday and take a trip to Europe instead.

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'Courts don't realise the terror we have been through. We are petrified at night, worried 24 hours a day'

Ordeal goes on for victims of self-styled Lucifer

By Joanna Bale and Leyla Linton

VICTIMS of the robber who gloried in the name "Lucifer" were delighted and relieved at the record 27-year sentence imposed on him yesterday.

One of his last victims, William Angel, 70, was in court to see the man branded "wicked and callous" sent to prison after being convicted of robbery and assault. Mr Angel, who had tried to fight off 6ft 4in Keith Bramble with a table, said: "It is a great relief. I am not going to be around in 27 years but I feel sorry for the other victims who will be counting the minutes and years until the time he is released."

Mr Angel, director of a fashion company, went on: "I praise the judge. He summed it all up by saying that not a lot of thought was given to the victims. Courts just don't realise the terror we have been through. When we go out at night we are petrified. We are worried 24 hours a day. During the trial we didn't know whether he was going to get convicted. I don't think we will ever get over this."

The mask worn by Bramble was pulled off as he and Mr Angel struggled after the robber broke into his north London home. "I keep on seeing that face over and over in my mind," Mr Angel said. "It will always stay with me. There was an expression of absolute fury on his face but at the same time panic. Being unmasked really unnerved him."

Mr Angel, his wife Frances, 68, and her brother, Dr Bernard Berman, 82, were having dinner at their home in Finchley last December when Bramble broke in, armed with a crowbar. "Bramble absolutely terrified us with his violence. The robbery seemed to go on forever, although it was probably only a few minutes.

"It has made us very nervous and very cautious and has had a bad effect on my brother-in-law, who suffers from Alzheimer's and now needs 24-hour-a-day care. He has deteriorated quite significantly since the attack."

Mr Angel described how



Angel: unmasked robber as they struggled

Bramble and an accomplice appeared: "We heard a loud bang and I went to investigate but could not see anything because they had forced the window open and put it back again. When we finished dinner we sat down to watch television and I fell asleep.

"Suddenly my wife screamed when Bramble appeared in the kitchen. I went to her aid and saw this huge masked man with a crowbar. I threw a table at him and he threatened to gouge my eye out with a screwdriver. As he went to grab my watch off my wrist I pulled his mask off and he threatened to shoot me."

Bramble pushed Dr Berman to the floor and kicked him, ignoring Mr Angel's pleas for mercy. Mr Angel said: "It was a very violent attack. He's a very dangerous man and deserves to be locked up for a long time.

"Bramble and his friend stole about £4,000 that my uncle had left me, which was in the safe waiting to be put in the bank. They also got away with jewellery, a camera, an ornamental dagger and a watch. We've got some of it back, but we'll always be terrified by the memory of that dreadful night."

Linda Ashley told how she felt violated after Bramble broke in while her two children were asleep upstairs. "Objects don't matter, but he raped our home and I will never forget it," she said.

Six months before the attack last November, Mrs Ashley had moved into her house, on an exclusive estate in Totteridge, north London, with her husband Mike, a sports retailer, and their children Oliver, 5, and Anna, 4.

She was watching the TV police drama *The Bill* with her friend Wenda when Bramble burst in through the door, armed with a crowbar. "I heard steps and thought it was the kids, and suddenly a man burst in from the entrance hall. He pulled my arm to feel if I was wearing a watch and I suddenly started shivering and felt freezing cold."

Mrs Ashley, who is Swedish, went on: "He asked us if we had a safe and I said we didn't. I was in such shock I started speaking Swedish. Then he pushed us both upstairs and I got really scared because I didn't know if he had seen the kids or if there were more people waiting up there for us. He then threw us on to the bed and said 'Stay there, bitches'." Bramble, of Tottenham, north London, escaped with a £10,000 haul.

Mrs Ashley said she was unable to sleep and suffered flashbacks after the attack. "I thought 'He's not going to ruin my life', but when it was calm around me and quiet, my mind started to take over. I felt relieved when he had been arrested but it played on my mind and I hate him for that."

Bramble's next victim, Deborah Finkler, a solicitor, praised the sentence imposed on him. She and her husband, Allan Murray-Jones, were at home with their two children when Bramble walked in through an unlocked back door. "I am relieved it is all over," she said. "The children are too young to remember what happened, but we are much more security-conscious now and we always have every door in the house locked when we are inside it.

"We were lucky in that we did not suffer as much violence as some of the other robberies, although my husband was pushed over while he was holding our baby. Luckily, neither of them was hurt but we were scared for our children that night."

Ms Finkler, 37, of Highgate, north London, had been reading a story to her son when Bramble appeared. "He just walked through our house taking our possessions as if he had a right to be there. He seemed polite and in control.

"While he was wandering through the house we told the nanny to call the police. We told him police were coming, which probably saved us from being hurt further.

"Our nanny was so shocked and upset by what happened that she resigned a week later, and we are now always conscious of locking ourselves in all the time."



Keith Bramble is pinned to the ground by police after the last of his violent raids on affluent homes

Career criminal grew up with Winston Silcott

By Joanna Bale

KEITH BRAMBLE began his criminal career in his early teens when he was a close friend of Winston Silcott, who is serving a life sentence for killing a boxer but was cleared on appeal of murdering PC Keith Blakelock in the Broadwater Farm riots.

Detective Inspector Jon Shatford said: "Bramble grew up in the same area of Tottenham and belonged to the same street gangs as Silcott, but whereas Silcott is bad, Bramble is just plain evil."

He liked to "relish the fear" of his victims and to inflict "maximum terror". "Bramble was a professional criminal. He had never had a job in his life but he enjoyed the money that came from his robberies," Mr Shatford said. "We believe he has committed more than 100 aggravated burglaries and made well over £1 million from his criminal career." The money fed his love of drugs, prostitutes and nightclubs. He enjoyed his notoriety and surrounded himself with beautiful women. At the height of his crime campaign he was said to be spending more than £2,500 a day on crack cocaine.

Bramble was finally caught after police set up Operation Bishop, a special inquiry costing hundreds of thousands of pounds and involving 20 officers who watched Bramble's movements 24 hours a day. He was tracked to three burglaries over eight days last winter and caught on the final one with his accomplice, Anthony Gabbidon. Both men tried to evade arrest by lashing out at police officers.

Bramble claimed falsely during his eight-week trial at Middlesex Crown Court that the police had framed him, but the evidence against him was overwhelming.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PC jailed for sex with girl, 15

A police officer who had sex in a patrol car with a 15-year-old girl was yesterday cleared of rape. However, PC Adam Grice-Roberts, 32, was jailed for 12 months by Preston Crown Court after pleading guilty to having unlawful sexual intercourse.

Mr Justice Laws told Grice-Roberts, who resigned from the Lancashire force during his trial, that he had committed a grave breach of trust towards a damaged girl in his care. He accepted that Grice-Roberts did not know the girl was under 16.

£11.5m drugs find

Five people were being questioned by customs officers and police after the discovery of Ecstasy and other drugs believed to be worth £11.5 million. Police moved in as the drugs were being transferred from a lorry to a van at a service station on the M62 near Warrington, Cheshire.

Baby killer jailed

A man who killed his three-week-old daughter because of her constant crying was jailed for five years yesterday. Dereck Brooks, 30, of Ipswich, Suffolk, was cleared of murdering Leonie by causing 23 skull and rib fractures but was convicted of manslaughter at Norwich Crown Court.

Shares libel

Edmund Wallis, chief executive of PowerGen, and his five co-directors yesterday received a public apology in the High Court and "substantial" libel damages over claims in *Today* newspaper that they cashed in share options while in possession of price-sensitive information.

Mullard funeral

Fellow actors, family and friends paid their last respects yesterday to the comedy star Arthur Mullard at his funeral at St Paul's, the actor's church in Covent Garden, London. He was cremated in Islington, where he lived in a council house with his late wife.

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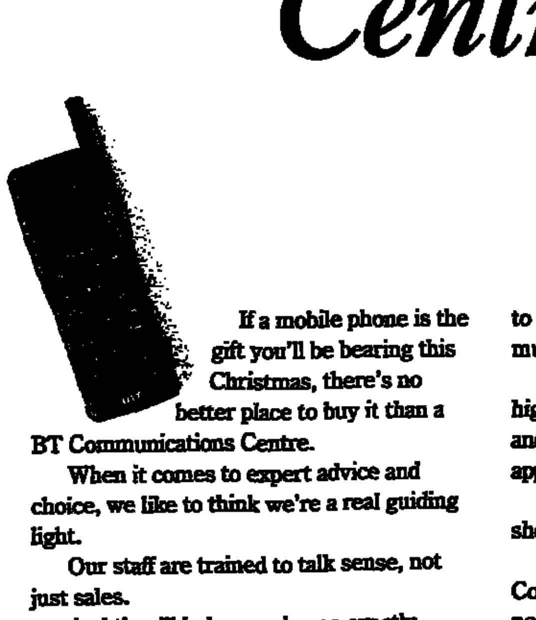


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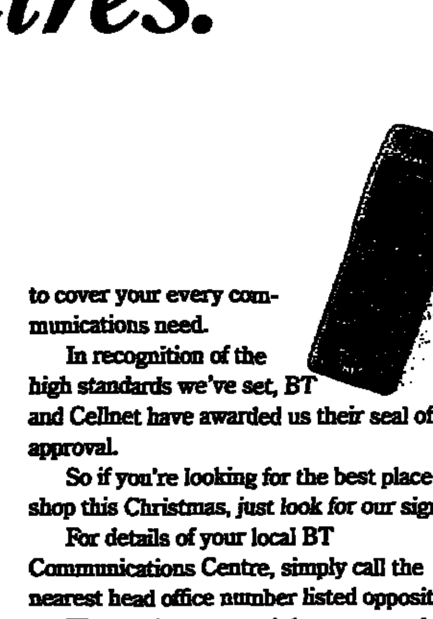
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Coronation Street: the nation's favourite stocking filler



Streetwise: the Granada video has beaten *Batman*

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

CORONATION STREET has pulled off the marketing coup of Christmas, releasing a feature-length video which has sold three quarters of a million copies.

Granada Television strategists have left their rivals breathless by the audacity of their ploy, a new concept known as the "soap bubble" which exploits the appeal of the nation's most popular television programme.

Five of the best-loved characters — including one who left the show several years ago — appear in a feature which complements the plot of the programme watched by almost 20 million viewers. The video has shot straight to number one in the charts, easily outstripping *Batman Forever*, the newly released video of the movie which many predicted would be the seasonal bestseller.

The 35th anniversary edition of the soap opera several weeks ago was a cliffhanger, as viewers waited to see whether Raquel, the barmaid of the Rover's Return, would choose Curly Watts, the Street's lovable nerd, or Des Barnes, its handsome lothario.

Millions tuned in to see Raquel secretly marrying Curly and then disappearing for a honeymoon cruise unaware that Rita and Mavis, the corner-shop gossips, had booked the same holiday and were sure to spot them. After the programme, fans were invited to rush out to their video stores to buy the film of the voyage. Viewers who carried on watching the soap three times a week on television were still able to follow the plot but the offshore antics were available only to devotees who paid £13 for the privilege.

By releasing it shortly before Christmas, television executives secured huge sales as gift hunters found the perfect present for fans. The hype does not end there. A *Coronation Street* mug which plays the theme tune to the programme is one of Woolworths best-selling gifts this Christmas. The power of television over British cultural life is reflected in the best-selling presents during the final shopping days of the season. *Riverdance*, a dance spectacular which began as an interlude in the Eurovision Song Contest, is making a strong late surge as a video, according to the Virgin Megastore in London.

At Woolworths, Power Rangers — superhero characters based on a television cartoon — are joining the traditional favourites Action Man and Barbie. *Soldier Soldier*, a drama about service life, is responsible for the ubiquitous Robson and Jerome, two actors whose unadventurous renderings of popular old songs have been dominating the music charts for much of the year. Their album collection is the fastest-selling of the year, with more than one million copies already sold and no shortage of enthusiasm before Christmas. Queen and The Beatles have been reduced to also-rans. Robson and Jerome's *So Far So Good* is competing with Take That's *Never Forget* as top pop video.

Many of the most popular books have a television theme. *I Don't Believe It, Men Behaving Badly* and *the Red Dwarf Diary*, which are on the bestseller list at John Menzies, are all based on television comedies.

The battle for favourite hardback book is being fought between the unlikely combatants of Delia Smith, with her collection of winter recipes (another television spin-off) and Andy McNab, whose Special Air Service memories are collected in *Immediate Action*.

To the humiliation of Noel Gallagher, the force behind the band Oasis, the top Christmas single is predicted to be a novelty version of his song *Wonderwall*, performed by the Mike Flowers Pops. The Mancunian band's own version of the tune was kept out of the top slot when it was released seven weeks ago by *I Believe*, a revamp of the 1950s standard performed, inevitably, by Robson and Jerome.

Hospices launch scratchcard to counter Lottery

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT



Top prize is £100,000

THE hospice movement is launching a scratchcard game with a top prize of £100,000. Help the Hospices, a charity representing the country's 208 hospices, hopes to raise £1 million by selling five million £1 cards to make up for a drop in donations due to the National Lottery.

Terry Taylor, chief executive of the charity, said it had to keep abreast of modern fundraising methods. "Anecdotal evidence suggests that some hospices have seen a drop of 20 per cent in donations since the launch of the National Lottery. We are constantly looking for innovative methods of fundraising."

The scratchcards will be launched in the new year. Mr Taylor said he hoped people would be attracted because 20p in every £1 would go to charity. Only 5.6 per cent of the proceeds of cards sold by Camelot, organisers of the National Lottery, goes direct to the National Lotteries Charities Board.

In a typical year, Help the Hospices raises £1.25 million, which is distributed in grants to local and regional residential and outpatient units.

Lord Mancroft, whose Scratch 'n' Win scratchcard organisation is running the game for Help the Hospices, said that the launch would be supported by an advertising campaign highlighting local and regional hospices. "Most public donations to hospices come from their local communities," he said. "You can't run hundreds of small lotteries for local hospices, so we are running it on a national basis to operate as a feeder into the small hospices."

The launch of the scratchcard, which will bear the charity's name and sunflower logo, comes amid continuing concerns about the effects the National Lottery has had on charitable donations. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations has estimated that individual charitable giving could decline by £300 million this year as a result of the National Lottery.

There are 142 voluntary hospice units in Britain plus 46 managed by the National Health Service and 20 run by the Marie Curie Cancer Care and Sue Ryder charities. Government funding averages 38 per cent of individual budgets, according to the Health Department, although some hospices get as little as 10 per cent.

Money also comes from fundraising, charity shops, tea rooms, legacies and covenants. Even NHS hospices are expected to find at least 10 per cent of their budgets from community sources.

£16m secures Seurat

THE National Gallery has acquired a masterpiece by Georges Seurat, the post-impressionist, for £16 million with the help of £8 million from the National Lottery.

***The Channel Of Gravelines, Grand Fort Philippe*, painted near Calais in the summer before Seurat died in 1891, has been on loan from the Berggruen Collection since 1991. The picture, which will stay in Britain, will also become the centrepiece of the gallery's educational programme.**

☐ Historians were given £1 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund yesterday for The *HMS Trincomalee* Project in Hartlepool towards the £3.8 million restoration of the frigate built in 1817.

Dinosaur protected its eggs to the death

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

DINOSAURS were devoted parents that sat on their eggs as carefully as any modern bird, a find in Mongolia has shown.

A well-preserved skeleton of a dinosaur brooding on at least 15 carefully arranged eggs confirms the contention that dinosaurs took care of their young. It also suggests that dinosaurs were warm-blooded.

The find was made by an American and Mongolian team in the Gobi desert and is described in *Nature*. The fossil consists of an adult oviraptor, a species that flourished about 75 million years ago. Oviraptor was about six feet long from head to tail, and had a short head and long arms with three-fingered hands.

The species got its name from the belief that it lived on eggs stolen from other dinosaurs. But recent work, confirmed by this find, has indicated that the eggs often found with oviraptor are its own, not those of other species.

The new fossil is remarkable because the creature appears to have been frozen sitting on its eggs. The chances are that it was overwhelmed by a sandstorm, but died rather than leave the nest. The arms are held back as if protecting the nest while the hind legs are tightly folded. The eggs are arranged with their broad ends pointing inwards. Fifteen are visible, but the team, led by Dr Mark Norell from George Washington University in Washington DC, estimates that the total is probably 22. Each egg is about 7in long by 2½ wide.

Brooding is usually associated with warm-blooded animals, though a few cold-blooded ones, such as pythons, also brood.

The find, says the team, is the strongest evidence yet of bird-like brooding in non-avian dinosaurs.


The fossilised oviraptor, which may have been caught in a sandstorm, appears to have been protecting its 7in-long eggs with outstretched three-fingered arms
THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM/ORBIS



Heather West laid to rest by family

Heather West, the daughter and final victim of Rosemary West, has finally been laid to rest at St Michael's parish church at Tintern, Gwent. Her brother Stephen, 21, and sisters Mae, 22, and Tara, 17, led the mourners, who included West's solicitor, Leo Goatley. Heather disappeared in 1987, aged 16.

The jurors who convicted West of ten murders have taken part in a counselling session at Winchester Crown Court, where the trial took place, it has been disclosed. West has appealed against her convictions.

Life for rapist

A multiple rapist was given three life sentences at the Old Bailey. Judge Rogers told Paul Brandy, 34, that he was a very grave risk to the public. Brandy, who admitted raping three women in Bethnal Green, east London, had been deported from Canada after being jailed for sex attacks there, the court was told. He was subsequently jailed for unlawful wounding after attacking his girlfriend.

Golf row acquittal

Imran Hashmi was acquitted of possessing an imitation firearm and ammunition at the Old Bailey after an incident at Camberley Heath golf club, Surrey. The court was told there had been a row after a ball flew past Mr Hashmi's car. Four golfers smashed his car windows and hit him. He hid in his sister's home then, he said, produced a decommissioned handgun in self-defence.

Bosnian patients

Three seriously ill Bosnian children have flown into England with their relatives for medical treatment. Amela Kurtovic, four, has shrapnel wounds that threaten the use of her leg. Meliha Mulezilovic, 13, has a congenital heart condition, and Lejla Ahmetspahic, 13, has cancer. The children's stay is being funded by Lions Club International and the World Memorial Fund.

Guppy appeal

Darius Guppy, sentenced in 1993 to five years for a jewellery insurance fraud, will learn today if he has succeeded in his appeal against an additional three years for failing to repay the Lloyd's syndicate he swindled. Guppy lost an appeal against his five-year sentence in April, but fines were converted into compensation which he failed to pay within the required three months.

Wife's plea

A wife has appealed for the public to help to find the killer of her husband, who had been leading a double life as a homosexual. Tony Davies, 40, was found stabbed to death on Pensarn beach, a gay haunt at Abergele, Clwyd, after failing to return to their home in Llysfaen. His wife Sheila, 37, said she had only known him as a loving husband and father to their two children.

tell me one good thing about your bank

British scientists pinpoint second breast cancer gene

BY NIGEL HAWKES

BRITISH scientists have isolated a second gene carried by families with a history of breast cancer. The gene, called BRCA2, is believed to be present in about a third of the 1,000 families in Britain who suffer cases of breast cancer in many female relatives.

It is also believed to be responsible for cases of the disease in men and probably accounts for 500 breast cancer cases in both sexes a year. Another gene, isolated last year and called BRCA1, is believed to be present in about half of the families suffering cancer, so the suggestion is that yet another gene mutation is responsible for the rest.

The isolation of BRCA1 and BRCA2 may help in the design of cancer drugs, gene therapy, and improvements in screening to detect women at risk. The team had already concluded that BRCA2 must be on chromosome 13, and now reports in *Nature* that it has isolated the gene precisely and identified its misplaced letters in the genetic code.

The evidence is that BRCA1 is also involved in ovarian cancer, while BRCA2 may cause some of the rare but often fatal forms of the disease that kill nearly 100 British men every year. The team isolated the BRCA2 gene after studying data from 40 families around the world, with an average of four breast cancer cases per family before the age of 50.

It localised the gene to a stretch of DNA representing about one 500th of the total genome, then pinned it down precisely by sifting through each of the dozens of genes in this region for abnormalities.

The team, which was led by Dr Mike Stratton of the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, Surrey, involved researchers from Cambridge, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Duke University in North Carolina, and took in data from Iceland, Holland, France and Canada.

Professor Gordon McVie, scientific director of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "This is a well-deserved triumph for our people. They will go on to examine the function of the gene and explore the role of the gene in non-family breast cancers."

Clean-up lifts heron population

BY NICK NUTTALL


Heron: protected species

THE number of herons, a reliable indicator of the health of rivers and fish, have reached a record high. Ornithologists said yesterday that there were about 6,627 grey heron nests in England and Wales this year, up from about 4,000 in 1928 when records started.

The improvement is also linked with the recent run of mild winters, which make it easier for the birds to catch fish.

John Marchant, of the British Trust for Ornithology in Thetford, Norfolk, said: "If ice covers the water, they can't get at the fish. They are big birds and will have the strength to move to another area. But if the cold is bad that too will be frozen over."

The herons' worst period was the early 1960s when numbers slumped to just over 2,000 nests or breeding pairs. There has been a steady improvement since then as rivers and lakes have become cleaner; herons are also fully protected under wildlife laws.

The survey, carried out by volunteers for the trust, found that Northward Hill in north Kent had the most herons, with 189 nests. However, the Walthamstow Reservoir colony in northeast London has fallen from 138 to 116 nests.

R & A welcomes upstart back to fold

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Royal and Ancient, arbiter of all things golfing, is supporting the planned restoration of a disused links on the Isle of Wight that once challenged St Andrews as the rulemaker of the game.

Such was the calibre of membership of the Royal Isle of Wight Golf Club in the late 19th century, including the sons of Queen Victoria from nearby Osborne House, that the club felt able to make its own rules in defiance of the Scots.

As St Andrews is now the undisputed world headquarters of golfing law, magnanimity reigns. Michael Bonallack, secretary of the R & A, has written to Barry Field, Tory MP for the Isle of Wight, that St Andrews would welcome the restoration and reopening of the island's once distinguished links which, since it closed in 1961, has become the exclusive province of dog-walkers.

Mr Field is negotiating with the National Trust, which owns the land, to have the course expanded to 18 holes and returned to sporting use. "No other golf course in the world could boast such a royal patronage, and few such a history. If this once fabulous course were restored, I have no doubt it would be a major worldwide attraction as an important part in the history of the game and its development," Mr Field said yesterday.

Set by the sea at Bembridge, the course was opened in 1882 and was only the sixth links to be developed outside Scotland. At the time the R & A rule was that if you lost a ball, you lost the hole. The Royal Isle of Wight ruled that if you lost a ball, you could drop another and add two strokes. To the chagrin of St Andrews, but the relief of golfers everywhere, the English view for once prevailed.

[هكذا من الاصل]

Party embarrassed by mix-up over 7pm division

Tardy MPs cost Tories victory in fishing vote

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was severely embarrassed last night when it emerged that it could have won the fisheries policy vote on Tuesday night but for two MPs who turned up too late.

Tory sources claimed that Michael Spicer and Sir Michael Marshall thought that the critical vote was at 10pm rather than 7pm. When they arrived at the Commons to hear the Government they found that the division had already taken place and Labour had won by two votes.

If the two Tories had voted, they would have produced a tied result. Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, would have followed tradition and cast her vote with the Government, giving the Tories a one-vote majority.

Yesterday Tory business managers were trying to conceal their frustration that two of their MPs had apparently mistaken the timing of the vote, despite a three-line whip having been applied. Many Commons votes are held at 10pm, but it is up to each MP to check the timing.

Friends of Mr Spicer, MP for Worcestershire, insisted that he had "made an arrangement" with the Whips' Office. Although he is a Euro-sceptic they emphasised that he was not deliberately abstaining and would have voted with the Government. Sir Michael Marshall, MP for Arundel, was unavailable for comment last night.





Michael Spicer and Sir Michael Marshall: both are thought to have mistaken the timing of the vote

Four Labour MPs who also missed the vote face a dressing down in the new year from their Chief Whip, Donald Dewar. Senior Labour whips were said to be fuming after they spent days trying to track down the four, Brian Sedgemore, Michael Watson, Max Madden and Ian Davidson, who were all abroad. Two were contacted but failed to return.

Mr Dewar will call in the four individually next month, warning them that their action could have robbed Labour of a significant victory on the eve of the parliamentary recess.

Yesterday Mr Sedgemore, MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, who is on holiday with his ex-wife and son in Barbados, dictated a letter of apology to Mr Dewar. He wrote that he had "no excuses" and would have delayed his flight if the significance of the fisheries vote had registered with him.

"My apologies to you and to all my colleagues who voted, including, and especially, those who were sick and did so at some risk to their health," he wrote.

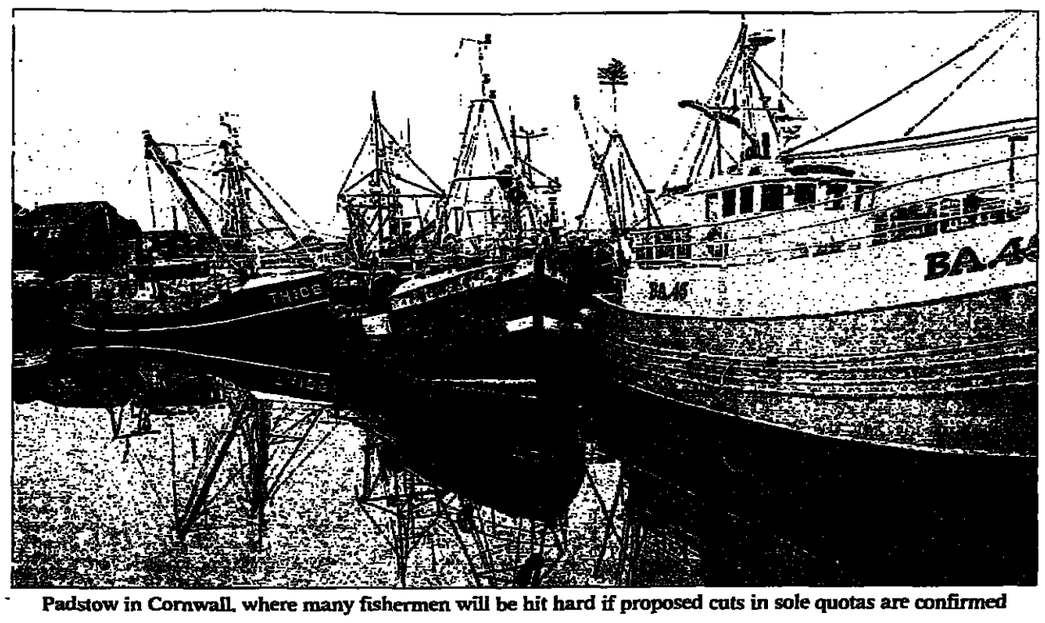
"When Audrey, who is Barbadian, and with whose relations the two of us and Richard, our son, are spending Christmas, heard the result at 11pm British time and told me, I telephoned to check if there would be a vote of confidence. I was told not. In conclusion, I am shocked to have to write this letter. The defeat of the Government is excellent news."

Mr Madden, MP for Bradford West, who is said to be in his holiday cottage on the west coast of Ireland, also spoke to Mr Dewar by telephone.

But the whips seem to be focusing their anger on Michael Watson and Ian Davidson. Mr Watson, MP for Glasgow Central, is rumoured to be in Barcelona. Mr Davidson, MP for Glasgow Govan, could be either in Spain or Sri Lanka. The whips have been unable to reach either of them for days.

Labour surprised many of its own MPs and the Tory whips by defeating the government 299 to 297 over a routine motion on the common fisheries policy. Two Tories, Bill Cash and Michael Carttiss, voted against the Government, and 11 Tories deliberately abstained. Seven of the nine Ulster Unionists also voted against John Major.

Tory business managers had predicted that more Labour MPs would be away but Mr Dewar and his team spent most of Monday and Tuesday recalling them. Two Labour MPs were "nodded through" because they were to ill to walk. John Fraser, who arrived wearing a neckbrace after a bad car crash, and two other very sick MPs, insisted on voting personally.



Padstow in Cornwall, where many fishermen will be hit hard if proposed cuts in sole quotas are confirmed

Baldry to fight for best quotas deal

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AND NICK NUTTALL

THE Fisheries Minister promised trawlermen yesterday that he would fight for the best deal possible in talks starting in Brussels today.

Tony Baldry said: "I will be as hard as I have always been. If anyone can identify an opportunity I have missed, I will gladly give up my role as Fisheries Minister." But he said that the industry must accept that catches had to be limited. "There are too many boats chasing too few fish. If we get the conservation measures wrong, we can see the very real prospect of a collapse of our fish stocks."

Negotiations are held every December to fix the amount of fish that can be caught in European Union waters in the coming year. The proposals before ministers are based on scientific assessments of how much trawlers can take without endangering stock recovery. Once the total allowable catch has been agreed for each of 49 species, it will be divided between member states' fishing fleets according to a formula that gives Britain about 38 per cent by weight of all fish caught.

The European Commission has proposed heavy cuts, ranging up to 50 per cent, in catches of sole, plaice, herring, mackerel and whiting. Mr Baldry said he wanted to get these cuts scaled down to avoid big fluctuations from year to year, which made it hard for fishermen to plan.

The proposed cuts in sole catches would be a heavy blow for many fishermen in Devon and Cornwall. This year the European Comission is proposing no cuts in haddock in the North Sea and is prepared to allow a 17 per cent rise in cod catches there. But permissible catches of both fish will remain at record low levels because of cuts in previous years.

Yesterday fishermen challenged the accuracy of the scientific assessments of fish stocks on which the quotas are based. Mike Townsend, of the Cornwall Fish Producers' Association, said that cod in the Channel and western waters was plentiful this year, yet only a slight increase in the North Sea quota was being proposed.

He said that trawlermen were frustrated at seeing good fishing grounds being underfished while others were overfished and harmed. They would like to swap their hake quota, giving stocks a chance to recover, for a bigger Channel cod quota.

Ashby urged to step down and focus on paying debts

BY JAMES LANDALE AND NICHOLAS WOOD

A SENIOR Tory official in David Ashby's constituency yesterday called on him to stand down after his libel case defeat.

John Kailofer, the Leicestershire North West vice-chairman, said that Mr Ashby should retire to concentrate on earning money to pay off his debts. The MP faces legal costs of £500,000 after the failure of his action against *The Sunday Times*, which branded him a lying, hypocritical homosexual.

"Because of his age and his health, I think he should stand down at the next election," Mr Kailofer said. "He is going to be 58 next time, he's got a heart condition and he's got to concentrate on earning more money. The best thing is to stand down and concentrate on the Bar. That is what I will tell him."

Mr Kailofer, who is also chairman of the local Conservative Political Committee and vice-chairman of European constituency association, said that the executive committee of the association would bring forward its next meeting to discuss Mr Ashby's future. "We will be asking him what he wants to do and expressing our own view as well."

The pressure on Mr Ashby came as the Tory high command prepared to mount one of its secretive rescue operations to help him to meet his legal costs. Bankruptcy would force him out of the Commons, prompting a by-election that would almost certainly be won by Labour, further eroding the Government's tiny majority.

It is understood that Mr Ashby met Alastair Goodlad, the Chief Whip, for a chat and a whisky on Tuesday night and that the whips and Central Office are preparing to pass the hat around among wealthy MPs, peers and benefactors. Money to pay his legal costs would be offered as a gift or as a loan. No action has been taken yet and the timing will depend on whether Mr Ashby decides to appeal against the verdict and how swiftly *The Sunday Times* presses for its bill to be paid.

Although Mr Ashby's constituency is altered slightly by boundary changes, the move is not enough to force an entirely new selection process. Instead, the association is likely to open up the adoption process to outside contenders. Whoever becomes the candidate would struggle to win the seat which has a Tory majority of just 979 over Labour.

Mr Kailofer said that although Mr Ashby had been regarded as only an "adequate" MP, there was great sadness in the constituency. "I know him as a personal friend. I just don't know why he carried on with this case."

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Bruinvels chosen to stand for new seat

BY JAMES LANDALE

PETER BRUINVELS, the maverick former Tory MP who once volunteered to be a public hangman, has been selected to stand for The Wrekin at the next election.

Local Tories in the Shropshire constituency chose Mr Bruinvels, who lost his Leicester East seat in 1987, in preference to several present Tory MPs. Although The Wrekin is held by Labour, the seat has been altered by the Boundary Commission and will become Tory with a notional majority of more than 7,000 at the next election.

Mr Bruinvels, who is married with two daughters, is a supporter of capital punishment and was known to journalists as a "rent-a-quote" MP. He said in 1990: "I love the media and I know how to get things into the papers. My only ambition now is to get back into the House."

He had tried for several other seats including Stratford-on-Avon, Mid Sussex, Halesowen and Stourbridge, and Epping Forest. A Tory official in The Wrekin said: "He is a good catch. He knows his stuff."

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: backbench debates on the proposed international passenger station at Stratford, east London; schools in Broadstairs; the future of Knockhill racetrack. Scottish questions were followed by a debate on the Humber Bridge (Debts) Bill, all stages.

In the Lords: debates on the increase in litigation and consequences for the professions; the case for a statutory limitation on cheque book journalism; and the Western European Time Bill.

Both Houses adjourned for the Christmas recess and will not sit again until Tuesday, January 9.

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Rabin assassin put in solitary cell to foil a fatal attack

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

IN AN attempt to avert any more parallels with the assassination of President Kennedy, the self-confessed killer of Yitzhak Rabin has been placed in solitary confinement in an Israeli jail with 24-hour protection, including food-tasting to prevent poisoning.

One official, describing the decision to move Yigal Amir, a 25-year-old right-wing Jew, to the newly-prepared cell at the Ohalei Kider prison, neer Beer Sheva, said: "We are doing our best to avoid a situation like that when [Kennedy's alleged killer] Lee Harvey Oswald was assassinated by Jack Ruby."

The eight-minute video broadcast on Tuesday night showed the incredible ease with which Mr Amir perpetrated his crime and boosted the belief of many Israelis that he was part of a complex plot involving members of the secret services. As a result, many believe an attempt might be made to silence him before his trial reopens on January 23. He has threatened to disclose details about the killing that would "turn the country upside down".

Public anger over Mr Amir's attempt to sabotage the Middle East peace process has been exacerbated by his lack of repentance during his court appearances. One inmate of the Ohalei Kider prison told Israel television: "Someone will bash his head with a rod at some point."

The degree of hatred was demonstrated by Eitan Haber, Mr Rabin's former bureau chief, who spurned attempts by Mr Amir's religious father, Shlomo, to make apologies at the opening of his trial on Tuesday. Later described by Mr Amir's mother, Geula, as "a monster", Mr Haber told Israel television that he would "pursue the Amir family for the rest of its days".

Mr Amir will eat all his meals in the new top-security cell where, under Israeli law, he could spend 30 to 40 years. The 15sq ft cell, which has a shower, toilet, television and radio, may only be opened with the permission of the prison authority. Moshe Malul, a spokesman for the authority, said that the assassin would be allowed to read books, subscribe to one newspaper and receive half-hour visits from his family once a week.

Nearly 50 per cent of Israelis watched Tuesday night's televising of the amateur video, which showed the failure of security guards or police to prevent Mr Amir's attack on the former Prime Minister. "Stunned nation watches a nightmare", reported yesterday's *Jerusalem Post*, while the *Yediot Ahronot*, the Hebrew newspaper, disclosed that one of those glued to the screen was Shimon Peres, Mr Rabin's successor. He was also a potential target until he became separated from Mr Rabin at the end of the peace rally on November 4.

Conspiracy theories increased yesterday with a *Yediot Ahronot* report that two of Mr Rabin's bodyguards told the police that someone shouted "it is not real" when the bullets were fired. At first, the shout was thought to have come from Mr Amir, but there is growing speculation that it was uttered by a security official who may have been part of a plot to let Mr Amir open fire with "blanks", which were later switched.

Mr Rabin's widow, Leah, has repeatedly questioned why security men told her that the two dum-dum bullets which killed her husband were blanks. Until a convincing answer is given, the evidence in the video of the lack of concern for Mr Rabin's protection will fuel speculation that the inaction resulted from a conviction that real ammunition was not being used.

Israel bars US rabbi

Jerusalem: Israel yesterday barred entry to seven Americans Jews considered a security risk. They included Rabbi Abraham Hecht, 73, who earlier this year gave religious justification for killing Yitzhak Rabin. He apologised to Rabin in a letter days before his assassination on November 4. The Interior Ministry said the six others had been linked to illegal activities in Israel, backed extremist groups, or were active in the Jewish Defence League. *(Reuter)*

Mubarak death plot thwarted

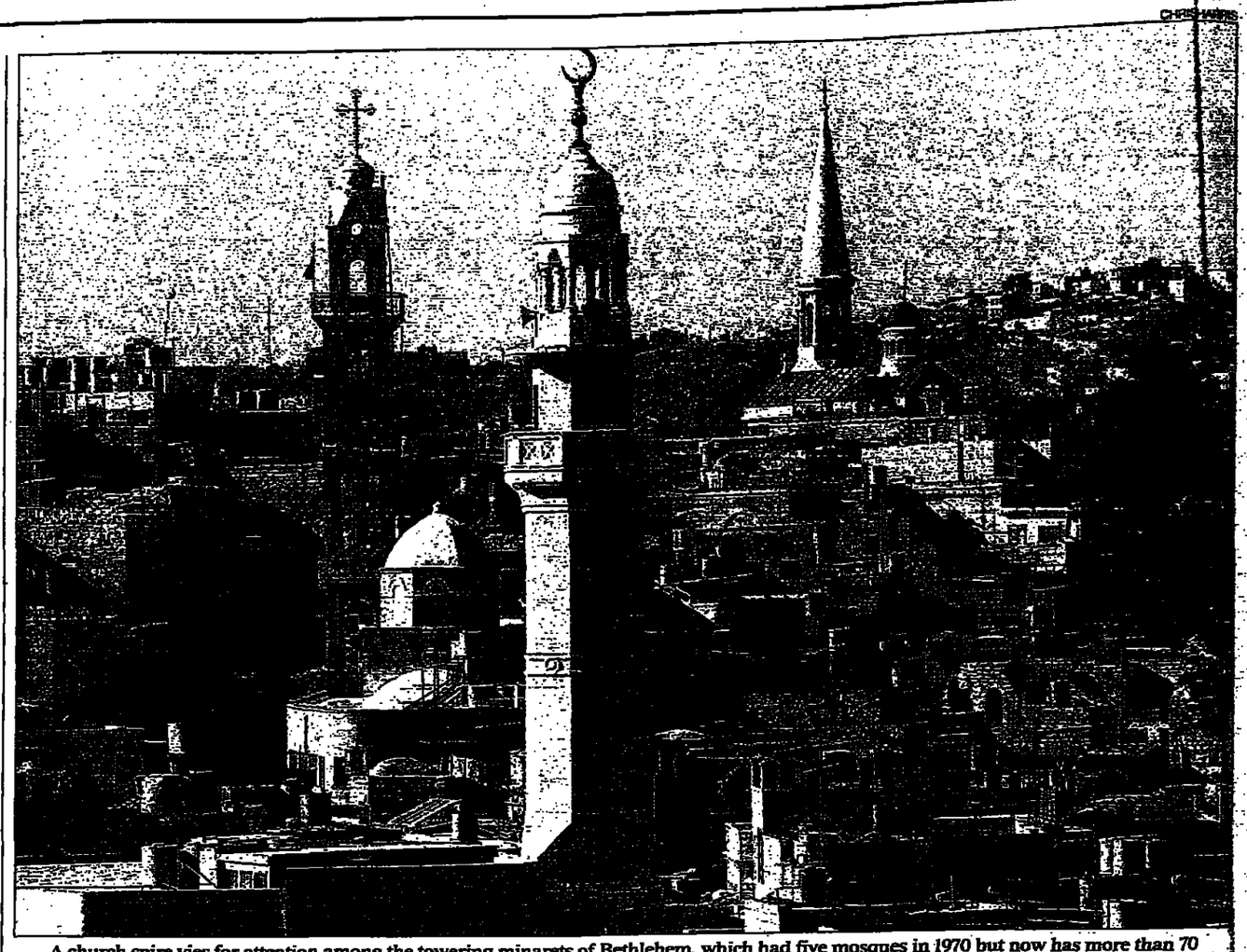
BY OUR MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

EGYPTIAN security forces have foiled an Islamic plot to assassinate President Mubarak and take over the Government. The plot was described as the most dangerous in the country since the killing of President Sadat by Muslim fanatics in 1981.

Coming less than two months after the murder of Yitzhak Rabin in Israel by a right-wing Jewish militant and only six months after the Egyptian leader narrowly escaped an ambush in Addis Ababa, the latest Cairo coup attempt was described by Western officials as a reminder of the potential for instability in the Middle East.

An Egyptian Interior Ministry official last night confirmed a report in a leading Cairo opposition paper, *al-Ahali*, that the latest attack was planned by Islamic Jihad, the group which assassinated Mr Sadat.

Egyptian security forces, on alert after the election clampdown on the illegal Muslim Brotherhood, arrested 56 suspected extremists, including five Sudanese and one Egyptian.



A church spire vies for attention among the towering minarets of Bethlehem, which had five mosques in 1970 but now has more than 70

Muezzin's call dominates Nativity town

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BETHLEHEM

BETHLEHEM, revered by tens of millions around the world as the birthplace of Jesus, has lost most of its Christian character and today has a 40,000-strong population of whom more than two-thirds are Muslims.

So far-reaching has been the change which began soon after the foundation of the State of Israel in 1948 and is considered irreversible that Greater Bethlehem, which had only five mosques in 1970, now has more than 70. The sound of the muezzin calling the faithful to prayer five times a day is a more common sound here than church bells, even around Manger Square, site of the 4th-century Church of the Nativity.

Although the exodus of the Palestinian Christians is not a subject that many residents are happy to discuss on the eve of televised Christmas celebrations, officials are prepared to talk privately of intimidation, land deals reserved only for Islamic buyers and Christian women in Western-style clothes being pelted with eggs by fundamentalist youths. Crosses and graves have been desecrated.

"The transformation began when Arabs fled here from the formation of the Jewish State and two large Muslim-dominated refugee camps were established," said Jawad Mana, a leading Bethlehem journalist and a Muslim. "The demographical move was accelerated by emigration and the higher Muslim birth rate." Elham Sameh, one of 500 Protestants who will gather in the YMCA at Shepherds' Fields on Christmas Eve to sing carols at a service, said: "We Christians are getting less and less. We are now only about 2 per cent of the Arab population of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. You will find more Bethlehem Christians living in South America than in Bethlehem."

> "As far as we Muslims are concerned, Jesus was a Palestinian"

This year the drastically shrinking presence of Christians in the town described proudly by Elias Freij, its Greek Orthodox Mayor, as "the spiritual capital of the Christian world" is symbolised by the giant portrait of Yassir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, dominating Manger Square in anticipation of his arrival to mark the city's transfer from Israeli to Arab control after 28 years of military rule.

"For us Muslims, Christmas in Bethlehem is a national Palestinian festival rather than a religious one," said Musa Darwish, the Muslim spokesman of Bethlehem's Vatican-sponsored university where 68 per cent of the 2,100 students are Muslims. "After all, as far as we are concerned, Jesus was a Palestinian." The hilltop university, founded in 1973 to provide a way for Christian students to obtain a higher education without going abroad, is symbolic of the Islamisation of the town where until 1949-1950 the Christians were the dominant majority.

In the courtyard of the walled campus daubed with Islamic slogans, crude cartoons lampooning Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister, and photographs of gun-toting Islamic terrorists take pride of place on a notice board provided by the university authorities. Many of the women students wear the white Islamic head covering that is becoming more popular throughout the Arab world.

"Because of the fundamentalists, many Bethlehem Christians have started to give their children Arabic names such as Walid, Omar or Tariq," Mr Darwish said.

For the purists, as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, once said on a visit to the Holy Land, there is a danger that, by the first decade of the new millennium, Jerusalem and Bethlehem, once centres of a strong Christian presence, "might become a kind of Walt Disney Christian theme park" with the churches just serving as museums for tourists.

some people can

WORLD SUMMARY

Teenage 'mafiosi' arrested

Bari: Police in southern Italy said yesterday that they had arrested four teenagers, two of them aged 14, for running a Mafia clan. All four were suspected of the attempted murder of another minor, extortion, theft and illegal arms possession.

Police said the boys were believed to have established a junior version of the Mafia with initiation rites and a blood pact to seal their secret life of crime. A sawn-off shotgun, starting pistol and toy gun were confiscated from the gang's hideout. *(Reuter)*

Yemen demands captives' release

Sanaa: President Saleh of Yemen said that Eritrea must free 200 captured Yemeni soldiers and leave a disputed island that it seized on Monday before his country could begin talks.

An official dismissed reports that Yemen had ordered military mobilisation to retake the Greater Hamish island and confirmed a three-day ceasefire was holding after the flare-up in the Red Sea. *(Reuter)*

Governor of Barbados dies

Bridgetown, Barbados: Nita Barrow, 79, the first woman Governor-General of Barbados, died on Tuesday at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Bridgetown after collapsing at a Christmas party on Monday night. The cause of death was not revealed. A public health expert, Dame Nita was appointed the Queen's representative in 1990. *(AP)*

Tribal Barbie

Nairobi: Kenyan toy shops are doing a brisk Christmas trade in a Malaysian-made Masai Barbie Doll, Africa's first black version, which has traditional dress, including a shawl and anklets. *(Reuter)*

UN deadline for Western Sahara

FROM MARK HUBAND IN RABAT

THE United Nations has threatened to withdraw its peacekeeping troops from the disputed Western Sahara if Morocco and its rival claimant, the Algerian-backed Polisario Front, fail to agree on a referendum to decide its future. A UN Security Council vote on Tuesday night saw unanimous approval for the holding of the referendum either to bring independence to the mineral-rich territory or see it united with Morocco.

However, Security Council members said that if agreement were not reached before the UN mandate in the territory expires on January 31, the 400-strong peacekeeping force could be withdrawn.

Morocco and the Polisario Front, which has fought for independence since Spanish rule ended in 1975, remained silent after the Security Council meeting, which followed three weeks of fruitless talks by the UN.

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'So much blood has been shed. Now we see these Nato forces coming, I think this war is over'

British troops put the smile back on face of Bosnia

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN KRUPA NA VRBASU, WESTERN BOSNIA

THERE have been so many false hopes before but yesterday seemed so different — it felt like the end of the Bosnian war.

While the sun dipped towards the mountain horizon, casting the valley in cold shadow, the inhabitants of Krupa, a Serb-held town 17 miles south of Banja Luka, gathered by the roadside to watch the British troops arrive.

As the men and crunching armour spearhead the British crossing of the front lines only two miles away near the snow-laden high street, the Serbs smile. One man, wearing a camouflage jacket, runs forward with a bottle of brandy which he begins handing to the troops.

"I cannot easily put this day into words," the Serb says. "Every side has lost so much. So much blood has been shed. At last, now we see these Nato troops coming, I can allow myself to think this war may be over."

With newly raised Union Jacks snapping brusquely above columns of Scimitar fighting vehicles, the men of B Squadron The Light Dragoons, backed by a Warrior mounted platoon of soldiers from The Light Infantry, had hours before ploughed northwestwards through the snow-capped Bosnian wasteland, spilling along and across the confrontation lines from their bases in the centre of the state within hours of their "D-Day" reversion to Nato command.

Thousands of other troops from the British brigade, so far the only composite unit intact of the planned multinational division, with the task of implementing the Dayton peace accord in south-western Bosnia, were involved in the operation, codenamed Operation Resolute Rat.

The Second Battalion The Light Infantry moved westwards from Vitez to take up position in Mrkonjic Grad as a prelude to a move further west to Sanski Most, while men from the First Battalion the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers deployed from Bugoyno to secure the crossing point for The Light Dragoons. These troops were in turn supported by Royal Engineers, Signallers, airmobile artillery and helicopters.

Passing through Muslim, Catholic and then Serb Orthodox zones, the movement of these troops has no precedent among the many attempts at creating peace in the war-torn state. Never before have regular units in such numbers or carrying so much firepower been given such access. The reaction of all three elements seemed to be one of relief, and instead of opposition, the forces met only varying degrees of co-operation from the indigenous forces.

"We have a clear aim," said Major-General Mike Jackson, commander of the British-dominated multinational division, "which is to bring three years of wretched war to an end. If necessary, we are prepared to implement the agreement using force."

He spoke from the roadside near Bajunici, south of the confrontation line between Croat and Serb forces, where the Squadron of Light Dragoons formed up in a holding area before their final move across the front. Behind these soldiers helicopters wheeled in the sky. Sea Kings dropped airportable 105mm howitzers to gun positions placed to support the advance of the Dragoons, while Lynx helicopters flew protectively above.

By 2pm though, the lead Scimitar passed through a narrow gorge and crossed the front. Onlooking Serb soldiers laughed with British Fusiliers securing the point, appearing happy to see the Nato force.

"After so many years of bloodshed in Bosnia it's a good thing to finish this war," said Captain Branko Zeljkovic, of the Bosnian Serb Army. "We're going to give the British our maximum co-operation in order to fulfil the joint goal for peace. I hope it's a permanent end."

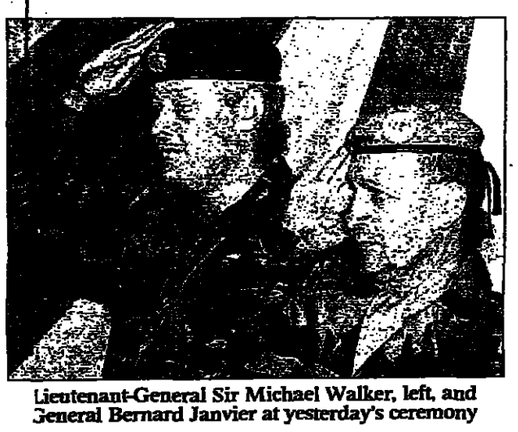
As the light faded the British reinforced their presence in the town, and the brandy toast continued its rounds between the Serbs and British troops.

I took a helicopter back to central Bosnia. Below us mist collected in the white valleys, dimming the vision of the Nato movement westwards. Beneath the doorgunner's gunbarrel, lights began to glimmer from homesteads among the mountains. They appeared as if a farewell to Bosnia's war.

Leading article, page 19



Azra Petrovic, a Muslim, is kissed by her daughter Maja, seven, in Tuzla yesterday after three years apart



Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, left, and General Bernard Janvier at yesterday's ceremony

Alliance takes up biggest mission

BY STACY SULLIVAN

NATO formally took over the task of peacekeeping in Bosnia-Herzegovina from the United Nations yesterday, signalling the start of the biggest mission in the alliance's history.

The handover was announced at an unimpressive ceremony that began 40 minutes late at Sarajevo's fog-shrouded airport. The American commander of Nato's operation, Admiral Leighton Smith, who was to be the most prominent figure present, circled the airport because it was too foggy to land.

General Bernard Janvier, the UN mission chief, and Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, the head of Nato's ground forces in Bosnia, stepped in to take Admiral Smith's place. They read a simple statement in French and English saying the legal transfer occurred at 11 o'clock.

People in Sarajevo said that Nato's involvement in Bosnia marked the beginning of "great hope".

"Nato will provide a kind of security for all of us. The UN failed completely from our viewpoint. Nato has a lot of credit here because it is supported by the Americans. We are all very disappointed in Europe," said Amala Hajric, who lives in the capital.

Light Dragoons set the 'no nonsense' mood

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO began its first peacekeeping mission yesterday and immediately demonstrated a style and forcefulness which was denied — by Security Council mandate — to the United Nations troops who were first sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1992.

Throughout the first two and a half years of the UN operation, the peacekeeping and humanitarian mission was thwarted at every turn in the road by Kalashnikov-waving militia, often drunk, who treated the UN soldiers with contempt. Even British soldiers with long experience of Northern Ireland were forced at gunpoint on occasions to hand over their weapons and their vehicles and to suffer the humiliation of being sent packing by abusive warlords.

In the build-up to the launching of Operation Joint Endeavour, the peace implementation mission which began yesterday, Nato commanders have made much of the fact that the arrival of alliance-led troops in Bosnia would register a "step change" in the approach towards the "former" warring factions. The troops would act robustly and would stand no nonsense if obstructed at checkpoints.

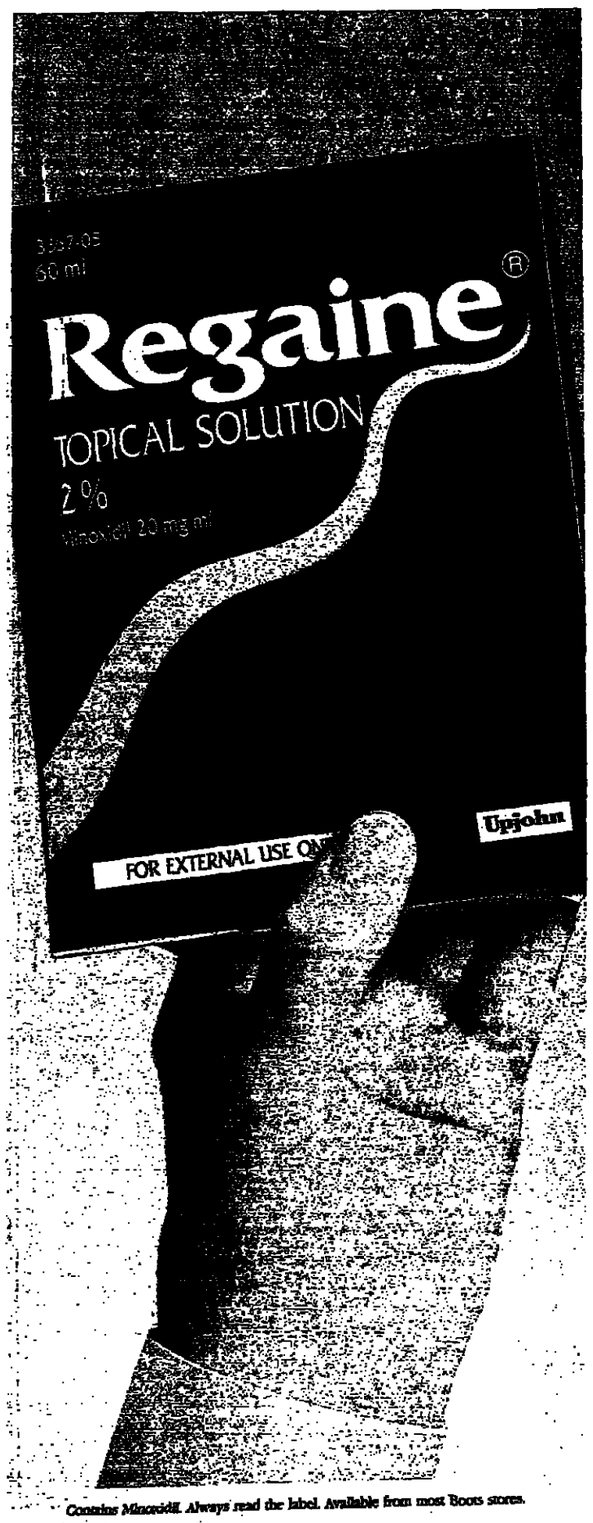
Yesterday British soldiers under the new Nato command demonstrated this new style when 'B' Squadron of the Light Dragoons advanced in armoured vehicles across a former front line in Bosnia.

Two hours after the UN formally handed over responsibility for keeping the peace in Bosnia to Nato, the 100 British soldiers swept past Serb checkpoints to set up camp at Krupa in western Bosnia, a village about 18 miles south of the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka. Although this demonstration of will is bound to set the tone for the months ahead, it would be unfair for Nato to claim that the arrival of alliance musclepower has totally changed Bosnia's military landscape.

The biggest change took place nearly four months ago when the UN, combined with Nato airpower, took on the Serbs and struck a blow of such ferocity that the Serb leadership in Pale was forced to realise that another winter of warfare would be disastrous, both militarily and politically.

The fact that the UN — or more accurately Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the UN commander in Bosnia — "bit the bullet" and demanded wholesale bombing of Serb military targets, has made Nato's job today much easier. There is little likelihood of Bosnia becoming another Vietnam or Beirut, as so many commentators have claimed. The political environment is different and, provided the 20,000 US troops in Bosnia retain a sense of impartiality, there is no reason why the 60,000-man Nato-led force should not complete its mission within the 12-month timetable.

Thanks to General Smith's determination to change the balance of power between the UN peacekeepers and the Serbs, the alliance has a better chance of succeeding, and developing a peace enforcement strategy that will be a marker for future operations.



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'A white showed respect, I never thought it possible'

Neo-Nazi town warms to black Communist Mayor

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN VENTERSDORP

WHEN Meshack Mbambalala was selected to be the first black Mayor of Ventersdorp, the prospect filled him with trepidation. This was hardly surprising, given that he had just replaced one of South Africa's most noted bigots as the top man in the Western Transvaal town.

Even a year ago the idea that an unemployed Communist living in a rickety tin shack who washes in a bucket, reads by candlelight and listens to Bob Marley could become Mayor of a town synonymous with Eugene Terre'Blanche and his neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) was almost unimaginable. Mr Mbambalala is the first to admit that he does not always feel comfortable, but less than two months after he slipped on the red gown for the first time his worst fears have proved ill-founded.

Mr Mbambalala slumps back into a ragged armchair in his dank, ill-lit shack and recalls, with a smile brighter than his gold mayoral chain, that a group of whites were among the first to congratulate him on his victory. At the municipal buildings, ten minutes' walk from his township home, he says the Afrikaner staff have treated him as an equal. "On the first day, when my white secretary called me 'sir' and offered me tea, I felt like crying," he said. "We were brought up thinking blacks were inferior and this was the first time a white had shown me respect. I never thought it was possible."

The same might be said for the metamorphosis taking place in Ventersdorp. Not only are blacks no longer subjected to abuse but these days they can be seen drinking alongside whites at the town's only hotel. Whites recently ventured to the *shebeen* (illegal drinking den) in nearby Tshing township.



Terre'Blanche: dubbed a Father Christmas

Mr Mbambalala is determined to build on the spirit of goodwill and speaks passionately about developing multi-racial sports teams. His confidence has been boosted by what he sees as the ability of the new council, with five African National Congress and four right-wing Conservative Party (CP) members, to work together. "We must leave our politics outside the doors before we enter the council chamber," he said at their first meeting.

His conciliation efforts appear to be hitting the mark. Pierre Terre'Blanche, a CP councillor, says he was initially opposed to black rule but now is determined to work with his black colleagues, and the prominently displayed picture of President Mandela on his office wall speaks volumes. "We cannot go on fighting, but we will need time to let the water run over the rocks," he said.

Of course, it would be foolish to think that sweetness and light have descended on Ventersdorp overnight. From the off-licence in the town, where separate service areas for blacks and whites have been retained, to the death threats and smear campaign against the new Mayor, there are plenty of reminders of apartheid.

"This is a bizarre democracy where literates are being ruled over by the illiterates," Fred Rundle, an AWB spokesman, said. "You always get a couple of weirdos who want to be accepted by the new South Africa. You see them in the shops walking around with a token little black, but they are fooling no one."

However, even in Ventersdorp it is the AWB that seems out of place. It recently moved its headquarters to a quiet side street, and where once journalists were chased from the premises at gunpoint they are now welcome. Across the country the AWB's antics are the butt of jokes and a Johannesburg radio station recently voted the once feared Eugene Terre'Blanche as their candidate for Father Christmas.

"We are tired of troublemakers in this town," said Martin Girmbeek, owner of the Ventersdorp Hotel. "Our doors are open to all as long as they behave themselves. We are determined that this is going to be the first truly black and white Christmas that Ventersdorp has known."



Meshack Mbambalala, first black Mayor of Ventersdorp, outside his home in the Western Transvaal town

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Cape chief to go head hunting in Scotland

BY INIGO GILMORE

A SOUTH African chief will travel to Scotland next month in an attempt to retrieve the head of the Xhosa king, Hintsa, which he says was cut off and removed by British soldiers 167 years ago.

Chief Nicholas Gcaleka, a traditional healer who claims direct descent from King Hintsa Kaphalo of the Amagcaleka and Amararabe tribes, says his ancestors have instructed him to fetch the king's head from Scotland. He says he spent 30 days under the sea with his father — who he says is still alive — where he was told the precise location of the head in Scotland, but is sworn to secrecy.

Chief Gcaleka, who is supported by more than 30 South African companies, says the head must be brought back and reburied with the rest of the body to bring peace to South Africa and to stamp out corruption. His ancestors have given him until the end of January for the task.

The chief, who lives near Port Elizabeth, has received moral support from President Mandela, Alfred Nzo, the Foreign Minister, and the provincial government. The trip's cost, estimated at 50,000 rands (£10,000), has been inflated because he will be accompanied by six traditional healers and an advocate from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

According to the British High Commission in Cape Town, records indicate that the king was killed by a renegade British soldier who sliced off the ears and was punished. But a commission spokesman insisted there was no evidence King Hintsa's head had been cut off.

Carjacker gangs sow fear in Kenya

FROM REUTER IN NAIROBI

EXPATRIATES in Kenya are selling their Land-Rover Discoveries and other four-wheel drive vehicles to escape being caught in a pre-Christmas crime wave that is scaring off foreign investors.

Shocked by the plague of frequently violent carjackings and robberies, police have detained more than 3,000 suspects this month, partly in an effort to stem an influx of weapons.

"For the criminals, carjacking is a low-risk, high-return enterprise. You stop the car and take it. Breaking into a guarded home to steal a television, by comparison, is high-risk and low-return," said a Western security officer in Nairobi. Carjacking, he added, was a well-organised "industry" with the bulk of expensive cars taken in Kenya smuggled into Tanzania and from there to Southern and West Africa. But the gangs, who once gave their victims a taxi fare home, now shoot first, he added.

The crime wave since September has embarrassed the Government, with attacks on diplomats from Britain, Pakistan, India, Argentina and Malawi. "Some foreign companies are having great difficulty in persuading expatriates to serve here," said a Western diplomat. "Some embassies have requested armed guards, but unless you have an armed guard in every car and one stationed every 50 yards, you are not going to prevent all carjackings."

United Nations officials said some candidates had recently refused to accept posts in Kenya because of worries about security.

Call for Abacha dialogue

London: A panel of Commonwealth foreign ministers agreed yesterday to send a mission to Nigeria to pursue a dialogue with the military regime of General Sani Abacha.

The ministers said there had been no effort by Nigeria to engage pro-democracy groups in a genuine dialogue and issued a warning that sanctions could be considered if the regime proved inflexible.

The ministers requested a study of measures that could be used to persuade Nigeria to accelerate the return to democracy, a statement after the ministers' meeting said. Such moves could include a freeze on financial assets held overseas by members of the Nigerian Government, the prevention of new investment, and partial trade embargoes.

Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth last month after it executed Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer, and eight fellow Ogoni minority activists. *(Reuter)*

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Republicans spurn Clinton climbdown over Whitewater

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Senate's chief Whitewater investigator rebuffed eleventh-hour White House efforts to forestall last night's scheduled Senate vote on a court order to obtain subpoenaed presidential documents.

Striving to avoid a constitutional clash embarrassingly redolent of Watergate in an election year, President Clinton's advisers yesterday reduced their five original conditions for surrendering the documents to one, but Alfonse D'Amato, Republican chairman of the Senate Whitewater committee, insisted that the documents be surrendered unconditionally.

The New York senator said the committee had sought the subpoenaed documents since August and encountered nothing but "obfuscation and delay". He likened the Clinton White House to Richard Nixon's during Watergate, saying: "We have the same patterns of deception, of deceit, of faulty memories, of the destruction of records or missing records, of testimony from people that is just not credible, and it smells more and more like a cover-up."

The documents are notes taken by William Kennedy, a former member of the White House counsel's office, of a meeting in November 1993 between Mr Clinton's lawyers and aides. The White House says the meeting was merely to brief David Kendall, Mr Clinton's new personal lawyer, on the Whitewater affair. But Republicans suspect the participants discussed ways to thwart two supposedly independent criminal investigations in which the Clintons' names had surfaced and about which the White House had improperly received inside information.

Soon before the start of yesterday's Senate debate, the White House told Mr D'Amato he could have the documents if his committee and all other Whitewater investigators agreed that Mr Clinton was not waiving his right to confidential discussions with his lawyers. The White House was clearly concerned that surrendering the documents would set a precedent enabling investigators to obtain records of all Mr Clinton's private Whitewater discussions.

Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, agreed to that condition but Jim Leach, the Republican congressman leading the House Whitewater investigation, rejected it while the views of two federal agencies conducting Whitewater investigations were unclear.

Mr Leach accused the White House of a "consistent pattern of obfuscation and delay". Mr D'Amato said the President's claim of lawyer-client privilege was in this instance "very, very doubtful". Democrats accused the Republicans of rejecting a perfectly reasonable White House offer for blatant partisan reasons.

The Senate committee last week voted 10-8 along party lines to seek a court order enforcing its subpoena. The full Senate, which the Republicans control by 53 seats to 46, was expected to endorse that vote last night, triggering a constitutional confrontation between Congress and the White House that could well reach the Supreme Court.

White House fails to win budget deal

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A DAY after President Clinton agreed to personally negotiate an end to the budget deadlock in Washington, talks broke down yesterday after some Republicans refused to allow the White House to re-open the American Government for Christmas.

Mr Clinton had hoped to enter talks with Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, to balance the budget in seven years.

The Republican leaders had agreed the previous evening that if a schedule could be set, Congress would pass a temporary spending measure to recall more than 250,000 federal workers to their jobs, five days after the government closed for the second time in a month.

Another impasse arose, however, during initial meetings between Leon Panetta, the White House Chief of Staff, and House Republicans. Leaving Mr Gingrich's office on Capitol Hill, Mr Panetta said he had thought a deal was imminent. "That appears to have run into trouble," he said, "It appears there are members who oppose that approach at this time."

Mr Dole and Mr Gingrich, who want a balanced budget by New Year's Eve, had wanted to grant only temporary funds until next week, putting off the possibility of any further upheaval at least until after Christmas, but still leaving Mr Clinton under pressure to agree a deal soon. Any temporary activation of the Government would at least ensure payments to nearly 17 million welfare recipients and military veterans and prevent some embarrassment for both sides.

But radical Republicans in the House balked at the idea, saying they were unconvinced that the Administration was sincere.



Julia Roberts picks and Richard Gere pays in one of a string of Rodeo Drive boutiques in *Pretty Woman*

Hard-pressed shop owners prepare to go down and out in Beverly Hills

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN BEVERLY HILLS

ALONE with his mannequins, Richard Vicent is enduring the worst pre-Christmas week he can remember in a decade on Rodeo Drive. "It's been terrible," he says. "Everyone I've talked to has been crying the blues." His collection of designer suits in scarlet and black tell the same story. They all bear marked-down prices.

Two blocks up the shopping street that calls itself the most elegant in the world, another boutique is selling its stock cheaply and closing down after 17 years as a Beverly Hills landmark. Across the way, there is a "sale" sign in the window of Yves Saint Laurent. Outside, in the kerbside parking spaces for the very rich, there is not a single Ferrari.

Rodeo Drive is the heart of Beverly Hills and the engine of what claims to be one of the most lucrative shopping districts in America. However, behind the Christmas lights and marble façades it is urgently reinventing itself to avoid being eclipsed by California's mega-malls. The street where Julia Roberts learnt to shop in *Pretty Woman* is "a nice, friendly, refreshing alternative to the crowded malls", says a spokeswoman for the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, which has proposed enhancements such as wider pavements and more trees.

In fact, the most intimate street in the neighbourhood has four lanes of traffic. Pavement cafés are practically non-existent and stagnant business has made pre-Christmas sales the norm. On the nearby Wilshire Boulevard, there are vacant shops half a block long. Even Beverly Hills Psychic has shut down.

In a city that once prided itself on exclusivity, the most publicised recent opening was of a branch of Planet Hollywood, the new chain thriving on sales of film souvenirs and cheeseburgers. A training shoe superstore is about to open next door.

"This was the place to be seen," says Ruth Levine, 72, an administrator at Ted Lapidus which will close in the New Year. "It isn't any more. People are going to the big new malls in Santa Monica and Newport Beach."

Bloomingdales, the upmarket New York department store, had been considering opening its first West Coast branch in Beverly Hills a block from Rodeo Drive. The company has since reconsidered. Newport Beach and Costa Mesa, both in Orange County, are now the top contenders.

In Manhattan, there is scarcely a vacant hotel room this week. However, in Beverly Hills all four leading hotels had rooms available at an hour's notice on Tuesday night. The Peninsula, where Hugh Grant and Elizabeth Hurley have been known to stay, was offering a special $250-a-night (£162) rate.

Rodeo Drive naturally has its pockets of ironclad prosperity. Business is still "very good" throughout the year at Harry Winston, the jeweller best known for lending multi-million-dollar baubles to the stars on Oscar night. The manager picks out a $2 million, 27.5 carat teardrop diamond ring for which he hopes to find a buyer soon.

Mr Vicent has a simple theory to account for his blighted Christmas. "Most of my customers are still millionaires, but their bills are rising faster than their incomes. It's not how much you make that counts. It's how much you owe."

Protests halt US exhibition on slavery

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

FOR the second time in less than a month, the Library of Congress, a Washington institution priding itself on originality, has cancelled an exhibition after a welter of complaints.

"Back of the Big House: The Cultural Landscape of the Plantation", a collection of photographs and biographical accounts by former slaves, was dismantled the day before its opening after black members of staff said that it offended their heritage.

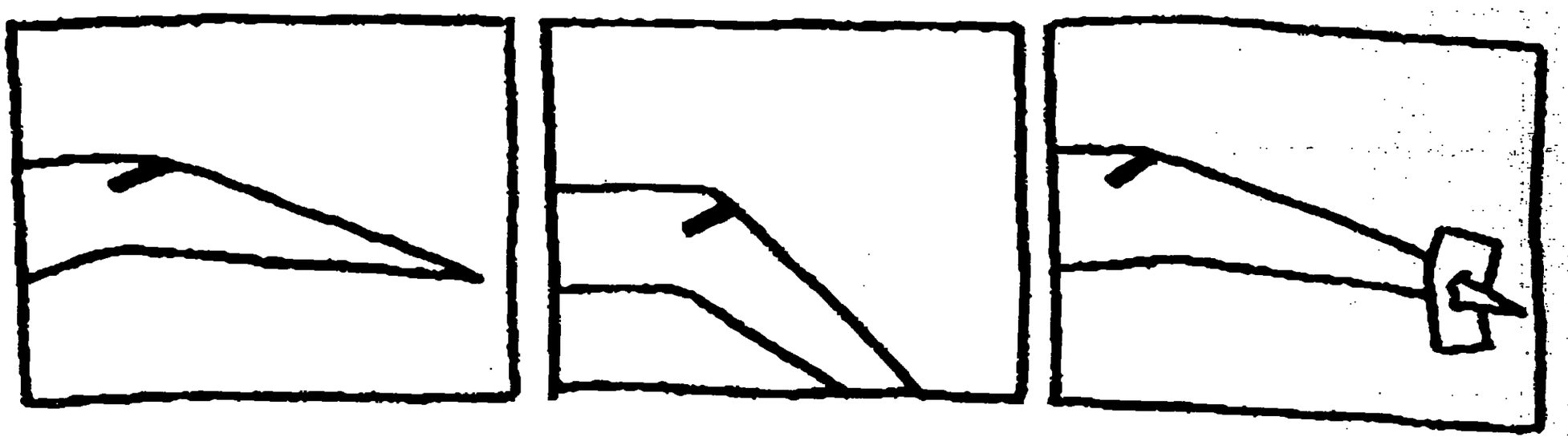
The decision was made only weeks after the library was forced to postpone a retrospective of Sigmund Freud when angry American academics and feminists said that the father of psychoanalysis was a discredited hack.

Reasons for the latest cancellation remained unclear yesterday to John Vlach, a George Washington University professor and curator of the exhibition, who said it had been shown without incident at five university museums and historic houses, including black institutions.

"I can see that some people would look at pictures of slave quarters and it might be that they are sensitive to that," he said. "But the exhibit is an exercise in recovering the stories and pictures of these people with their actual words. It lets the makers of history speak for themselves."

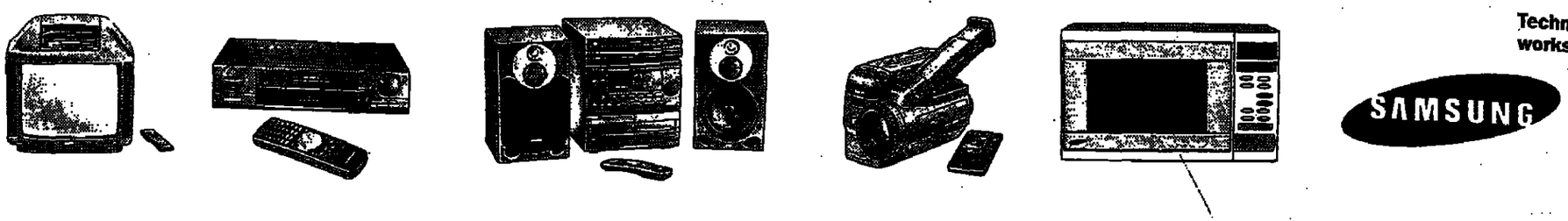
About 20 black library employees are said to have complained that the show lacked any historical context and its title evoked a long-standing dispute with the library. A 1982 class-action suit alleging employment discrimination has been settled for about $8 million (£5.2 million), but 2,000 affected staff have yet to receive their money.

Mr Vlach only learnt of the decision to withdraw the exhibition when he arrived at the library to check the final installation of the display. "I was shocked to find a ghost town," he said. "The walls were totally denuded."



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Juppé will woo unions with job promises

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Prime Minister, will today host a high-profile labour summit designed to find ways of reviving an economy battered by the three-week general strike.

After the country's worst social crisis for almost 30 years, M Juppé knows that the meeting represents a gamble that could end in disaster. With trade unions and employers bickering over the agenda, economists arguing that France could dip into recession, and the public-sector strike still lingering on in some areas, the Prime Minister has a difficult task and little room for manoeuvre.

Not only must he restore consumer confidence, shaken by the conflict, but also do so without hampering the drive to reduce public deficits that has become his central policy. Yesterday the difficulties were highlighted by President Chirac, who said, in an implicit criticism of his Prime Minister, that the Government should make new efforts to "bring back hope".

Announced by M Juppé at the height of the turmoil ten days ago, the summit is designed to relaunch economic growth, promote youth employment and explore whether a cut in the working week could act as an incentive to job creation.

Two of France's three biggest unions also want to discuss the welfare reforms that were at the heart of the strike. Although the Government made significant concessions, abandoning plans to revise public-sector pensions, union leaders want M Juppé to scrap his entire social security programme, something that he refuses to do.

The CNPF, French equivalent of the Confederation of British Industry, is also unhappy. Jean Gandois, the organisation's president, said he would attend the summit but would refuse to talk about salaries or a reduction in working hours. "We are not going with empty hands but with blood everywhere, that of companies who have had a catastrophic November and December," he said. "We are not Father Christmas."

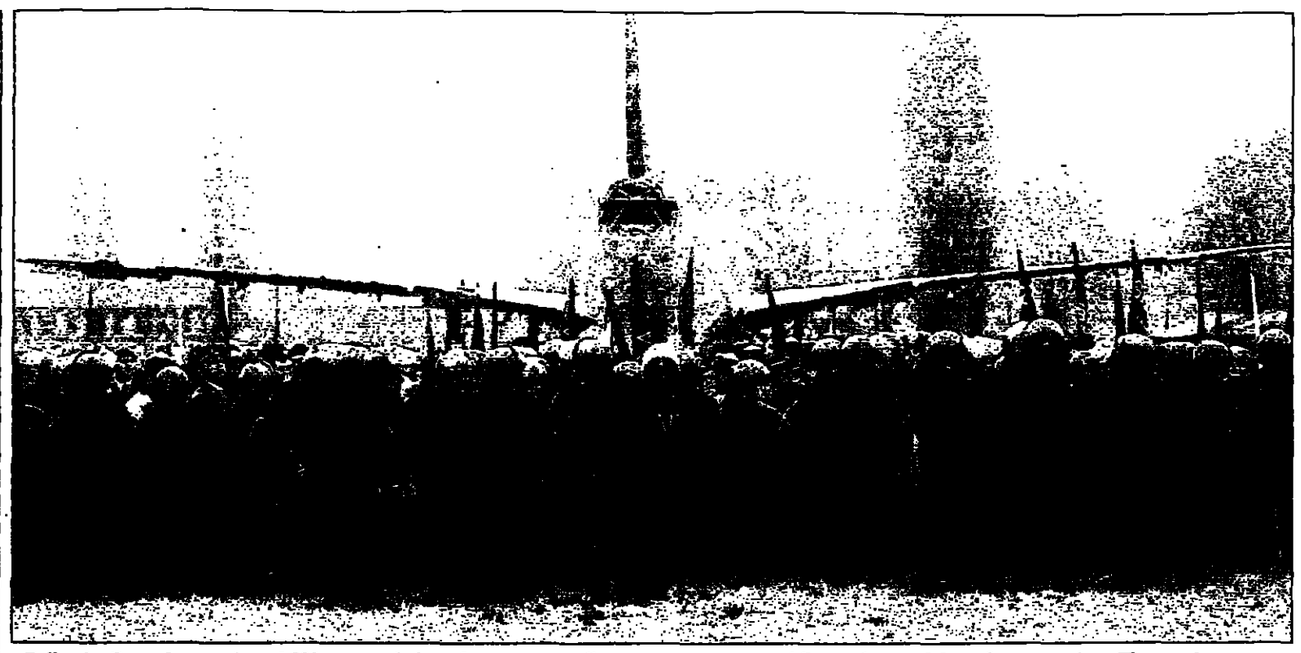
If today's meeting breaks up in acrimony, M Juppé's already fragile position could become even more precarious. His problems have been fuelled by surveys indicating a slowdown in the economy even before the strike. With the French becoming increasingly wary, they have placed large sums in their savings accounts since the summer, hitting retail sales and sparking talk of a recession.

Amid the gloom there were a few straws for the Prime Minister to clutch at. After a conflict unlike anything witnessed in France since 1968, the parties present at today's summit are under pressure to preserve at least a semblance of national unity. M Juppé might also draw comfort from opinion polls showing that the slump in his popularity appears to have bottomed out. He and M Chirac have registered small increases in their ratings, largely a result of right-wing voters backing them for the first time since July.



Chirac: demanded that Juppé bring back hope

William Rees-Mogg, page 18



Police in Brussels round up 1,000 striking employees of Sabena, the Belgian national airline, during the second day of a transport dispute yesterday. All flights were cancelled. A crowd of 2,000 protesters threw stones, eggs and firecrackers and the doors of a new terminal were broken as police stopped demonstrators from entering. The employees are protesting about planned cuts in government spending. (Reuter)

Pravda hopes for return to past glory

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

AFTER four years exiled to the media wilderness, *Pravda*, the once mighty organ of the Soviet Communist Party, is preparing to stage a dramatic comeback on Russia's news stands.

Buoyed by the success of the Communist Party's victory in this week's parliamentary elections, the daily newspaper, which has been haemorrhaging readers and recently faced financial ruin, believes it has a bright future as the flagship for the Communist renaissance.

"We do not support one political party any more, but we were naturally pleased with the Communist victory and we will be backing a left-wing candidate for the presidency," said Aleksandr Ilyin, *Pravda*'s editor-in-chief.

Certainly the newspaper, founded by Lenin in 1912 and at one time printed in 44 cities nationwide, could use the boost. Although *Pravda* once boasted more than 11 million readers, today in the competitive world of Russian newspaper publishing its readership is just over 170,000.

By some estimates the paper is lucky to be alive. After it backed the failed hardline coup against Mikhail Gorbachev in August 1991 its influence evaporated and it was nearly closed down for good by President Yeltsin's reformist Government. Since then it has suffered financial problems, an industrial dispute and a controversial takeover bid by a Yannis Giannikos, a Greek publishing tycoon.

Although most Russian newspapers and journalists fear that a Communist comeback could mean the return of Soviet-era censorship, the prospect has not unsettled the reporters at *Pravda*, where a large statue of Lenin still dominates the entrance.

"People talk so much about freedom of the press today, and yet every newspaper in Russia is controlled by a politician or a banker," said Mr Ilyin, who has worked on the paper for more than 20 years. "We had a lot more freedom under communism than people ever gave us credit for."

Certainly this week his paper has rediscovered its old form. On the day after the first election results showed a strong Communist lead in the polls, the newspaper ran a banner headline straight out of its past: "Hold Firm Communists!"

The editorial that day was equally rousing. It likened the spread of anti-communism to the Aids virus, which had finally been rejected by the Russian nation's immune system. "The President tried hard in his address to infect all our people with these pernicious germs," said *Pravda*, referring to Mr Yeltsin's pre-election attack on communism. "But it did not work!"

Yesterday the paper ran a lengthy interview with Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, widely regarded as Mr Yeltsin's toughest opponent for the presidential elections in June.

Pravda seems to have regained some of its influence: at least one government minister has been in touch to restore relations.

However, the articles will have done nothing for the average Russian who has acquired a taste for the Western-style mass market dailies that specialise in sex and crime stories. Many readers have already forgotten that not so long ago they had to read between the lines of heavy Soviet prose to elicit the few nuggets of information contained in the official press.

"I remember for important job interviews in the Soviet times you were expected not only to have read but memorised that day's editorial in *Pravda*," said one Muscovite. "I hope it won't come to that again."

Yeltsin pledges to save reform

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday promised not to backtrack on economic reform, as latest figures from the parliamentary election showed the Communist Party and its allies taking up to 40 per cent of seats in the State Duma.

In his first public statement since the election, Mr Yeltsin said the Government would stick to "the same policies as before and not deviate from the path of reforms". Speaking at a medal-pinning ceremony in the Barvikha sanatorium outside Moscow, where he is recovering from a mild heart attack in October, he added: "We have no grounds to be worried or to regard the election as a tragedy."

The President can use his strong powers to override or ignore the new parliament. In practice he will find that difficult, especially as presidential elections are six months away. Some Cabinet changes are expected, with Yevgeni Yasin, the Economics Minister, thought likely to be sacked. Other projects, such as a land privatisation Bill, stand no chance of being passed in the new Duma.

The latest results from Sunday's elections showed the Communists and their allies heading for about 180 of the 450 seats in the Duma. Vladimir Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democratic Party, will win about 50 seats, with reformist and centrist parties taking about 130. Most of the other seats have been won by independents.

Patten attacks sedition law plan

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

IN THE wake of alarm at the heavy sentence given last week to Wei Jingsheng, the Chinese dissident, Hong Kong's Government is pressing Peking to moderate its prospective sedition laws for the territory after 1997.

Chris Patten, the Governor, said yesterday that the Government has been waiting for a response from Peking to questions about sedition — against which no Hong Kong laws exist — and "our patience, while legendary, is not infinite".

On Tuesday, leaders of the Democratic Party, which holds the most seats in the Legislative Council, said that if the Government could not find an agreement with China on sedition, the party would introduce a private member's Bill. This would be open to Mr Patten's veto, but no gubernatorial veto has been exercised for 50 years.

Martin Lee, the Democrats' chairman, said yesterday that Mr Patten would be "judged by history" on how he protected Hong Kong's legislators from the law under which Wei was jailed for 14 years.

"A lot of legislators, including the pro-China ones, also have said something critical to China and that is what Mr Wei did," Mr Lee said. "As long as the Chinese Government doesn't like what you say, they will say you are subversive."

China's mini-constitution for Hong Kong states that laws will come into being which "prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition or subversion against the Central People's Government".

Mr Patten has already made clear, although without giving details, that he would be prepared to introduce legislation which would blunt the force of such a law.

He said yesterday: "Nobody should be very surprised that these issues are once again the focus of attention and debate. It is not because of anything the Hong Kong Government has done. I think Chinese officials and China advisers should ask themselves why there is so much concern in Hong Kong about these civil liberties matters."



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The complex link between alcohol and strokes

Beware of binges



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE ROMANS celebrated Saturnalia, the Anglo-Saxons Wassail, and for the last few hundred years we have been enjoying Christmas with a few extra drinks. Wassail is not entirely forgotten: at the start of the Christmas livery dinner of the Turners Company, a magnificent wooden Wassail Cup was presented to the master so that he could pledge the health and continuing friendship of all those present.

Drinking on such formal occasions is usually reasonably modest. But the pattern of northern European drinking in general tends to be spasmodic rather than regular, as in southern Europe. And spasmodic — or binge — drinking has its own hazards.

The Department of Health's conclusions that it is safe to drink rather more than was previously suggested were based on a scientific report which summarised all available medical evidence, but which itself received no publicity.

Some of the report's findings make fascinating reading, particularly its section on the relationship of alcohol intake to strokes. It is a popular myth among doctors as well as laymen that the likelihood of a stroke is inevitably increased by drinking alcohol. Evidence quoted in the ministerial document showed that the association is much more complex. And there is some encouragement for those who enjoy their four glasses of claret or couple of glasses of whisky or two pints of beer a day.

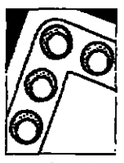
A stroke is a popular name for the damage which is caused to the brain as a result of failure of its blood supply. Each year strokes kill 62,000 people in Britain, and account for 10 per cent of all deaths. They have a variety of causes. Strokes are technically described either as haemorrhagic or ischaemic. In a haemorrhagic stroke, either an artery within the brain ruptures and bleeds, or one supplying the covering of the brain, the meninges, gives way. Haemorrhagic strokes are more common in younger people. In an ischaemic stroke an artery does not rupture but is blocked, either by a clot or by a plaque of atheroma, a piece of fatty material which has become detached from the artery wall.

Eighty-five per cent of strokes are ischaemic, only 15 per cent haemorrhagic. The good news in the health department's report is that the incidence of ischaemic stroke, the common variety, is halved by drinking two to five units (one unit is a small glass of wine or its equivalent) of alcohol a day for men, or two to four units for women.

The bad news is that conversely, the chance of having the less common form of stroke, the haemorrhagic type that affects younger people, is increased by drinking more than three units a day.

Whatever the type of stroke, binge drinking is bad. As the official report puts it: "A number of studies suggest that regular drinking is more beneficial than irregular consumption."

Sex and the morning after

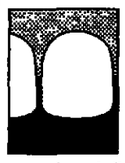


THE wilder excesses of office parties will for some people have an added hazard this year. Anecdotal evidence, supported by a recorded increased demand for PC4 — emergency postcoital contraception, the misnamed morning-after pill — suggests that anxiety induced by the Committee for the Safety of Medicines' report on the third-generation pill has discouraged some women from taking any type of pill at all.

Research may eventually show that the minuscule increase in the death rate from pulmonary embolism caused by the third-generation pill would have been outweighed by other advantages. In the meantime it should be realised that pregnancy causes a greater risk of thrombosis than any pill.

Those who have been foolhardy enough to give up the pill should remember that Schering's PC4, the only product licensed for emergency treatment, is effective for 72 hours after intercourse, not only on the morning after. No further unprotected intercourse should take place before the next period, which may be slightly delayed.

Take HRT for healthier teeth



OSTEOPOROSIS affects not only the spine and limb bones, but also the jaws. Loss of density in the jawbones results in the teeth working loose so that food is able to become trapped around them, causing gum recession, inflammation and infection. In many cases the teeth become so loose that they either fall out or have to be extracted. Treatment is concentrated on keeping the gums healthy with massage and perhaps, in the most severe cases of gum infection, prescribing antibiotics from time to time.

An American study reported in *General Practitioner* magazine, which involved nearly 6,000 retired women, has shown that HRT (hormone replacement therapy) has a dramatic impact on preserving healthy teeth in older women. Those taking HRT were only half as likely to have lost their teeth, and only 20 per cent as liable to need dentures. Gums, too, presumably benefited from teeth that fitted their sockets more closely, so that inflammation was reduced and mouths were healthier.

Searching for safe ways to fall asleep

Insomniacs will try anything to get a night's rest but some cures, says **Dr Laurence Knott**, may keep you awake with worry



TRANSWORLD

Tossing and turning: nothing is more depressing than lying in bed unable to sleep

MR JOHNSON was a pitiful sight as he entered the surgery. Haggard and drawn, he had come to ask for sleeping tablets. I would like to have complied with his request, but along with many other GPs, I have been encouraged to reduce drastically the number of sleeping tablets I prescribe.

Although benzodiazepines, such as temazepam and nitrazepam, were introduced as a safer option than barbiturates, worrying reports in the medical literature about dependency, publicity about legal actions against GPs and pressure from the family health services authority to curtail prescribing have compelled me to review my approach. A recent announcement that the Government is going to blacklist temazepam capsules in January because of their potential for abuse by addicts has made me reluctant to prescribe *any* type of sleeping tablets.

Mr Johnson was not depressed and it seemed inappropriate to prescribe an antidepressant just to help him sleep. Instead, I gave him a lecture on the dangers of hypnotics and a leaflet on handling insomnia without drugs. I sensed he was dissatisfied, and was not surprised to learn later that he headed straight for the local pharmacy to buy one of the insomnia medications available without prescription.

Sedative antihistamines such as Medinex, Nytol, Phenergan Nightime and Sominex are now marketed as sleeping preparations, but they were originally developed for hayfever and allergies, not as cures for insomnia. Eighteen months ago the Government allowed them to be advertised as hypnotics, since when sales have rocketed. This even applied to cold cures containing antihistamines, such as Night Nurse.

This situation worries sleep experts such as Professor Ian Hindmarch, Head of Psychopharmacology at Surrey University. He is concerned that patients buying sleeping tablets will be exposed to side-effects worse than those of prescribed drugs, and that treatable causes of insomnia will remain undiagnosed.

Professor Hindmarch has been studying the effects of insomnia and sleeping tablets on daytime alertness for 27 years. "You cannot interfere with the biological time clock without damage," he says. "Sleep and wakefulness are delicately balanced. Sleep disturbance occurs when wakefulness intrudes into sleep and vice versa. If you upset this relationship, it can affect a person's whole quality of life."

> 'Daytime sleepiness takes its greatest toll among drivers'

Perhaps because they have had little to offer patients, doctors have tended to shy away from the serious complications of insomnia. In 1979, an American scientist, Daniel Krypke, reported that men who regularly had fewer than four hours sleep a night were nearly three times as likely to die within six years than those who slept longer. Insomnia was found to predict morbidity and mortality just as much as heart disease, diabetes, stroke and hypertension.

Poor quality sleep is often associated with breathing disturbances such as sleep apnoea, which is in turn related to stroke and cardiac failure. Daytime sleepiness due to insomnia or the hangover effects of some sleeping tablets can be lethal for people operating machinery, and contributes to falls and long bone fractures in the elderly.

Sleepiness takes its greatest toll among drivers. Researchers from Loughborough University have examined the proportion of road accidents in southwest England and the Midlands that were sleep related. Their study, published by the *British Medical Journal* earlier this year, concluded that 16-23 per cent of road accidents were caused by drivers falling asleep at the wheel.

Insomnia can exert more subtle influences on an individual's quality of life. In 1990, Niekol Rombaut and her colleagues reported in the *Medical Science Research* journal that eight out of ten people who had poor quality sleep also had difficulties with relationships and depression.

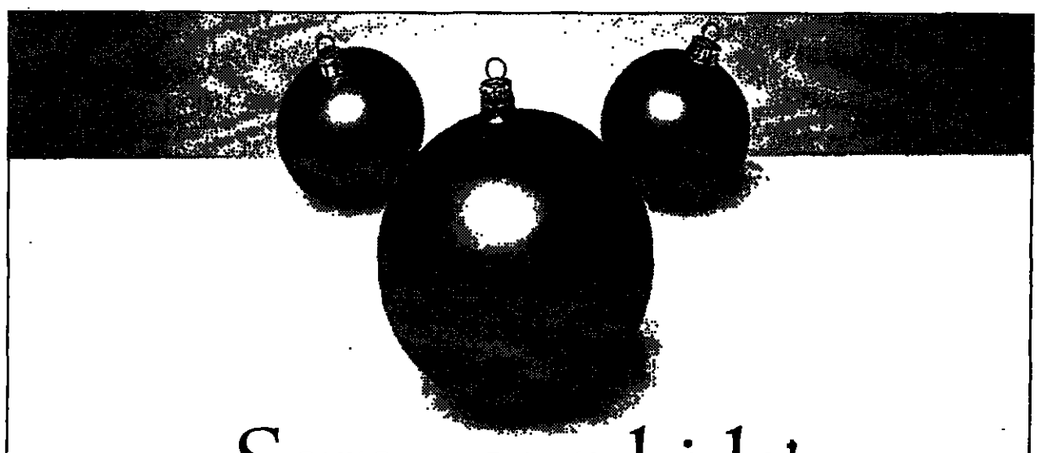
Using objective psychophysical tests, Professor Hindmarch has been studying drugs that affect daytime alertness since 1967 when he found that teenagers were abusing their parents' benzodiazepines. His department has adapted a car for the laboratory, with a light mounted on the bonnet. The driver is asked to push the brake pedal when the light comes on. Other tests include asking the subject to catch a ruler between forefinger and thumb, and the critical flicker fusion test which measures when a flashing light appears to fuse into a single light source as the rate of flashing increases.

Combined with mental arithmetic and memory tests, these assessments show benzodiazepines significantly reduce daytime alertness, and the ability to handle and process information. At 70mph drivers taking long-acting benzodiazepines — such as temazepam or nitrazepam — or sedative antidepressants add an extra 12 to 13 feet to their stopping distances.

Modern hypnotics such as zolpidem have been developed to satisfy current drug safety regulations. When zolpidem was tested by Professor Hindmarch he found that it did not affect brake reaction times. Furthermore, unlike the older drugs, it did not induce daytime drowsiness or impair memory. There have been no recorded incidents of dependency. Its nearest rival, zopiclone, can produce an unpleasant after-taste and there have been reports of hangover, hallucinations and disturbed behaviour.

Professor Hindmarch believes GPs should prescribe modern hypnotics in the same way as they do antibiotics. "A short course — no more than two weeks — given early in the condition can effect a cure," he advises.

● *The writer is a GP in Middleser.*



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Stay calm and heal faster

Dr Kieran Sweeney on the effects of stress on the wounded

AN AMERICAN study suggests that stress delays the rate at which wounds heal.

Researchers from Ohio State University invited people who were caring for relatives with dementia to take part in the study. Such carers consistently have high levels of stress, and frequently participate in studies on stress and illness. The participants agreed to undergo a small skin biopsy on their arms, and the rate at which this small wound healed was compared to a non-stressed control group.

Complete wound healing took significantly longer among the carers — nearly nine days more overall. The delay in healing was at its most obvious in the first five weeks, by which time nearly half the control group had healed completely, compared to about 15 per cent of the carers.

The researchers think that the delay was caused by the relatively low levels of the protein interleukin-b in the bloodstream of the carers. This protein, produced soon after tissue injury, regulates the remodelling of the connective tissue in wounds and the rate of production of collagen, the tough fibrous tissue in scars.

The study suggests that stress impairs not just the response to infectious diseases, but also the body's ability to heal. Clearly, this could have important consequences for people undergoing major surgery.

INSIDE SECTION 2

An opera house on the banks of the Thames: Marcus Binney takes the wraps off a sensational building project

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It's Bardot versus the Queen

Two ladies of a certain age who both love animals will speak to the nation and compete for the post-pudding audience on Christmas Day. **Kate Muir** gets an exclusive preview of Brigitte's speech



Brigitte Bardot in competition with the Queen. Few others could pull a Christmas Day crowd with assorted platitudes about furry friends

BRIGITTE BARDOT, the sex kitten who turned into a cat-lover, dog-defender and sheep-saver, will give the alternative Queen's Speech on Channel 4 this Christmas in the traditional 3pm slot. For the first time two sixtysomething animal lovers — both greying, soberly dressed and wearing reading glasses — will be pitted against one another for the post-pudding ratings.

It is hard to believe that Bardot, now 61, and the Queen are of much the same generation, but an exclusive preview of Bardot's ten-minute plea for animal rights confirmed this is indeed the case. Bardot is still decidedly glamorous, in a black suit, her hair perched like an elegant nest on her head, with wisps falling down. Her kohl-rimmed eyes are the only reminder of the naked child-woman lying in the Mediterranean sun in *And God Created Woman*.

Aside from the cat perched on her desk, Bardot seems decidedly grown up. She puts on half-moon reading spectacles, and shuffles her papers: "I am sincerely delighted to be able to talk for all those who do not have the power of speech — those animals to whom I have dedicated my life, my energy, my fame and my fortune," she begins, emphasising the word fortune.

Bardot wrote the speech herself, ensuring extraordinary grammar and delightfully ill-pronounced English. She congratulates "the English people, whom I love very much for its commitment towards animals".

Living in cruel, carnivorous France, she is deeply admiring of those "wonderful British people" for trying to stop "shameful death transports of animals", particularly Jill Phipps, the woman killed during a protest over veal exports. Bardot caused a media frenzy by attending Ms Phipps's funeral last February. She describes her as "my fighting sister, to whom all my thoughts go this Christmas".

And her best Christmas gift, she says, has already been given to her — the High Court ruling last month that allowed Dempsey, the pit bull terrier who had been under threat of being destroyed for three years, to be reunited with his owner, Dianne Fanneran.

But Bardot wants more: "I expect more than the freedom of Demspey... I expect your Parliament to amend the Dangerous Dogs Act and allow pet lovers to have dogs. I expect and ask for Mrs Fanneran to keep her dog."

Even after more than 20 years in retirement from the screen, Bardot has a magnetic attraction. There are few others who could pull a Christmas Day crowd with assorted platitudes about their furry friends. Part of the voyeuristic fascination, it must be admitted, is metering her eccentricity and doing a wrinkle check. Unfair, because Bardot has become relaxed about her appearance, eschewing face creams and lifts and saying: "It's not amusing to watch oneself wrinkle, but now, with what I do, it doesn't matter."

Bardot has not rejected all trappings of celebrity, however. She still has the capriciousness of a true star, and would not agree to give the alternative Queen's Speech until Michael Grade went begging.

After Bardot became involved in the Phipps affair and in providing a home for Dempsey, Channel 4 thought she might be keen for a platform in this country as the centrepiece for its Beastly Christmas theme. But even after regal permission was granted by Bardot, the actress kept refusing to make appointments since "I live from day to day". A friend says Bardot even considers an invitation to a future dinner party as "some sort of prison sentence".

When Michael Jones, the editor of the speech, turned up in Paris at the Brigitte Bardot Foundation for Animals with a vast camera, sound crew and battalions of arc lights, Bardot took one look and ran off. Later, she told Mr Jones that the elaborate set-up "brought back the horror of her early life as a film actress". She also claimed she had seen a particularly harrowing film about animals suffering that day, leaving her emotional and depressed. Many telephone calls and failed rendezvous later, Bardot agreed to have a single cameraman in her office, but no fancy lighting or make-up. "I want it to be intimate," she said.

Once Bardot started filming she was fine, says Mr Jones. "She was funny and coquettish, and she did her make-up herself in a few minutes at her desk. She told me that in films she might spend six hours a day in make-up, but she was not that person any more, and didn't need to pretend to be."

So Bardot looks like something out of a home video. There are early shots of the actress, interspersed with furry baby seals, blue whales and caged puppies in what becomes a broadcast high in kitsch and nostalgia.

In tight black jeans and red cowboy boots she is seen playing ball with the dozen or so "saved" office dogs. Her figure is unchanged from that of her 46 films. She is charming and innocent, with a certain breathy exaggeration as she talks of "dogs in detention in these horrific secret kennels".

In a splendid finish, full of old-style Bardot pout, she blows a kiss, on one finger, to the viewers. "And now I wish you a sweet and merry Christmas, without turkey and without foie gras." Bardot must have forgotten one of her early acts of animal kindness on a Spanish film set when she adopted a stray dog and fed it foie gras. It died.

This is typical of the starlet's early attitude towards animals — all emotion and no sense. Bardot loved the cute and furry all her life, but her conversion to high principled animal rights was late. She ate meat until a few years ago, and once featured in an advertisement for mink coats. Now, of course, such coats are "cemeteries women wear on their back".

These days her somewhat theatrical, baby-seal kissing sentimentality has given way to successful campaigning. France's more humane abattoir laws are known as the BB laws, seals are rarely clubbed, and even in France fur coats have become an embarrassment. And what politician would refuse to take a call from BB?

Perhaps she discovered, after three marriages and umpteen lovers — from director Roger Vadim to singer Sacha Distel — that dogs are generally more faithful than men. She once said: "I gave away my beauty and youth to men. I am now giving my wisdom and experience, the best of me, to animals."

Bardot could equally say she gave away her beauty and youth to France, if not the world, because she became something much larger than herself: a symbol of the age.

While the outside world was theorising, Bardot started falling apart. She left her second husband with her baby, Nicholas, and a nervous breakdown. "How could you expect me to raise a child when I still needed my mother?" she railed.

Bardot sounds like precisely what she was at the time — a spoilt child. At least animals loved her for herself, and dealt with her spectacular mood changes with equanimity. For years, her St Tropez home was filled with donkeys, goats, rabbits, birds, dogs and cats, all saved from various terrible fates. She now lives just outside Paris with a similar menagerie, and has a trailer attached to her car for her ten or so dogs.

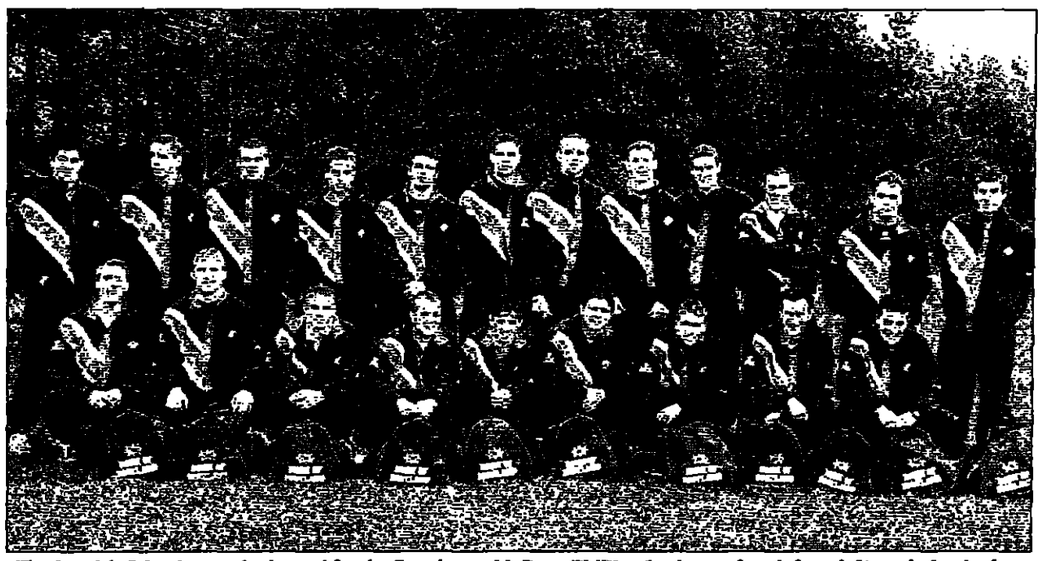
Bardot did make a last bid for male company in 1992 when she started living with Bernard D'Ormale, a friend of the National Front leader Jean Marie Le Pen. The running anti-fascist joke was that she picked D'Ormale because "she likes dumb animals". The relationship ended in tears, and tear gas, when the police evicted him from her Paris apartment.

And so the screen goddess lives alone once again, but for a small household zoo. Her campaigning, she says, satisfies the visionary, quixotic side of her nature. In the introduction to her Christmas message, she gives a rather sad affirmation: "Brigitte Bardot exists today only to serve the suffering animals of the world."

What will the Queen make of it all? "It is a little bit naughty," concedes a spokeswoman for Channel 4. "But we are showing the Queen's message later in the day and I don't think she'll be offended by the rival billing. She normally gets between 11 and 12 million viewers, whereas the alternative message will probably reach just under a million. And the Queen is, after all, an extremely well-known animal lover."

Peter Phillips takes to the rugby pitch tomorrow for an international against France. **Mark Souster** and **Gillian Bowditch** report

The winning ways of a royal grandson



The Scottish Schools squad, pictured for the first time, with Peter Phillips (back row, fourth from left) ready for the fray

The schoolboys, in their matching blazers and trousers, their kit bags slung haphazardly over one shoulder, will look like any other group of young sportsmen as they gather in the foyer of an Edinburgh hotel this morning. Some chatting, others telling jokes, while several simply enjoy their own counsel or browse the pages of a newspaper.

However, the 21 members of the Scottish Schools rugby squad recognised that they were involved in a team which, in future years, will provide a small footnote to history. For among their number was Peter Phillips, the eldest son of the Princess Royal and the Queen's grandson; he is the first member of the Royal Family to play international rugby, in the Scottish Schools match against France tomorrow.

The boys will be paired off together to share rooms according to their position on the field, rather than in line with any social scale; Peter will probably share with Grant Howieson, his fellow flanker and a pupil at Hutchesons' Grammar School, Glasgow.

There is no doubt that Peter is in the side on merit. During the schools' trial at Murrayfield he was selected on the bench, but elevated to the side when injury to Fergie Gladstone, a direct descendant of the Prime Minister and a close school friend, necessitated a team reshuffle. As a boy he was passionate about the sport; his love of Scotland — he has watched every home game for five years — was triggered by an incident at Murrayfield in 1990 after Scotland had won the Grand Slam against England.

As an impressionable 13-year-old he went with his mother into the Scottish dressing room to offer his congratulations. In a spontaneous gesture, David Sole, the captain, gave him his rugby shirt. For Peter it was a defining moment, one which sparked his ambition to play for the country. His commitment since then has been total. He qualifies to play for Scotland by dint of his residency at Gordonstoun and his mother is patron of the Scottish Rugby Union. Sole said: "Having coached Peter I've known for a while he had real ability. There's no reason why he shouldn't go on from here. He is a mature individual who's able to take the pressure he is under and I am sure he will fit in well."



Peter Phillips backs up his team-mate at last month's trials

Those who know him well testify to his charm and level-headedness. James Thomas, a master at Gordonstoun where Peter Phillips, 18 last month, is in his last year, says: "He is a very good all-rounder. It would be difficult for anyone to say anything nasty about him. He has been appointed head of school for next term and is doing extremely well. He is head of the fire brigade and therefore involved in real life incidents alongside the regular firefighters. He plays soccer and hockey at first-eleven level.

"Academically he's fine. He is taking three A levels and is capable of gaining a university place, if that's what he wants."

Trevor Jones, a former Guardian (head boy) of Gordonstoun and a regular visitor to the school, says: "He is a thoroughly rounded individual. He sticks out from the crowd not because he is a royal but because of his strong personality. He is very likeable and has boundless energy.

"He is good with people and there is a considerate side to his nature. His girlfriend Penny Taylor is a lovely girl. I think you can always tell something about a chap by his choice of girlfriend."

One fellow pupil, who does not want to be named, says: "He is game for anything. He never overplays the royal thing and is happy to muck in with the other boys. He is well liked here. He is just one of the chaps."

Another who has observed him over the years at Gordonstoun says: "To be honest, he was a bit of a handful when he first arrived but he is now regarded as a star of the school and, although it may be hard to believe, that has nothing to do with who he is.

"He fell in with a rather unsuitable element at one point but that is in the past. He never plays on his royal connections and the fact that he doesn't have a title helps. He has no airs and graces, and when there are visitors he keeps a low profile. The school doesn't flaunt him. In fact it is very protective of him."

But despite being Guardian of Gordonstoun, Peter Phillips is not above the odd prank. He was gated for a week after a master caught him and a fellow pupil indulging in an illicit drinking session last year.

Unlike his uncle, the Prince of Wales, Peter has thrived at Gordonstoun, in the wilds of the Morayshire countryside. He has made lasting friendships at the school, notably with Fergus Gladstone, captain of the Gordonstoun rugby team, and Tom Lightoller, another rugby player.

Tom Robertson, the president of Scottish Schools, is not surprised that of all the young members of the Royal Family it is Peter who has succeeded. "His mother is a trier, talented and dedicated, so is his father, and both represented Great Britain at the Olympics in 1976. He has a pedigree, there is a competitive edge because of his parents.

"The boy has had to grow up with media attention. Since his mother's divorce he has had to contend with photographers prying at the school, trying to catch him. He is not flying a flag of convenience — there is a genuine warmth for this country. I find him a hell of a nice guy, and he has come through everything as a very well adjusted young man."

That quality was evident on Sunday when a car in which Peter was travelling with two schoolfriends crashed on the M6 in Lancashire. The car was wrecked and the boys were fortunate to escape unscathed. It was Peter's demeanour when talking to the police which amazed officers at the scene; he was apparently calm and unruffled despite the seriousness of the situation.

Although he would not want it, in the match against France he will again be the centre of attention. French television are sending a crew and were dismayed to find that "Non," Peter would not be willing to give an interview half an hour before kick off, or at all for that matter.

Newspaper reporters more used to stalking Balmoral will be at the ground. But rather than foster resentment, his team mates will rally round and protect him as they did after the trial match at Murrayfield.

In his pen portrait for today's match programme, Peter says he hopes to pursue a career in the Armed Forces while his ambition is to play rugby at the highest possible level. While his size, he is 5ft 11in and weighs 12st 3lb, may prevent him from reaching the very top, it will not be for want of trying.

He is undoubtedly a popular figure in Scotland and has come a long way since the time when he captained a school team at a match in Inverness when the referee, on recognising the Queen's grandson, said: "Sir would you like to call tails or Granny."

Who will face France

The team that will play France, with members' position, name, age, school and career ambitions:

15 **Stewart Connell** (17) *Strathallan, sport science*
14 **Stewart Walker** (17) *Dollar Academy, architect*
13 **Gordon Hood** (16) *George Heriot's, lawyer*
12 **Thomas Lightoller** (18) *Gordonstoun, merchant banker*
11 **Andrew Raistrick** (16) *George Watson's, marketing*
10 **Gordon Ross** (capt, 18) *George Heriot's, PE teacher*
9 **Rob Chrystie** (17) *Hawick High, PE teacher*
1 **Malcolm Welch** (16) *Dunfermline High, vet*
2 **Stephen MacKinnon** (17) *Queen Victoria, leisure industry*
3 **Craig Buchanan** (17) *George Watson's, police*
4 **Jason White** (18) *George Watson's, management*
5 **Telfer Boyd** (17) *Hutcheson's, politics*
6 **Peter Phillips** (18) *Gordonstoun, Armed Forces*
7 **Grant Howieson** (17) *Hutchesons', teacher*
8 **Robert Muir** (17) *Fettes, doctor*

MARK SOUSTER

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Groups do not have rights

The European Court is wrong on gypsies, says **Roger Scruton**

When Edmund Burke warned against the rhetoric of "the rights of man", he foresaw what would happen when the whole of politics was summed up in the search for rights. As the claims mounted, so the State would grow to enforce them: and as the State grew, so people would lose their concern for the future of society, believing the State to have sole charge of it. Meanwhile, in order to justify its expanding power, the new political class would invent more and more rights, while removing whole categories from the list of those entitled to enjoy them.

And so it happened: within two years of Burke's famous *Reflections*, the Revolutionary Tribunals of France were condemning thousands to death in the name of rights granted and revoked without respect for law, and as part of a vast experiment in social engineering.

The list of claims has continued to expand: so too has the list of claimants. Children, minorities, groups, animals — all have been granted rights against the rest of us, regardless of whether they know this, and regardless of whether our rights can be enforced against *them*. Contemplating the moral and intellectual mess into which we have been led by the idea, one is tempted to agree with Bentham, that talk of rights, outside the context of law, is just "nonsense on stilts".

> Only a person can have or can accord rights

However, the problem lies less with the concept of a right, than with the unprincipled application of it, in the service of massive social experiments. This is how we should understand the idea of "group rights", used to grant privileges to some people and remove them from others, solely on the basis of their social groups. The idea is foreign to English law. But programmes of "affirmative action" in America and judgments of the European Court have both taken it for granted.

It has been a widespread practice in America to grant preferential treatment to candidates for a job or a scholarship purely on the ground that they belong to some favoured "minority". Certain groups, it is argued — women, homosexuals, blacks, "Native Americans" — have suffered unjust disadvantages. To rectify the situation, we must therefore tip the balance the other way, and ensure that membership of these groups counts in favour of a privilege and not against it.

It does not require much intellectual acumen to recognise that this practice exemplifies the very injustice complained of: the injustice of favouring one person and penalising another on account of a wholly irrevelant characteristic. If it was unjust to offer privileges to a white person and withhold them from a black purely on account of the colour of their skin, it is equally unjust to reverse the imbalance and favour blacks against whites.

Although that is obvious, it does not stop the concept of group rights from penetrating rhetoric and the practice of the Labour Party. "Women only" lists of prospective candidates are rightly condemned by the men who are excluded from them. It is not justice to favour women in this arbitrary way. Nevertheless, injustice is exactly what we must expect, when the concept of a right is applied to a group: for a group makes no decisions of its own and is entirely outside the sphere of moral judgment. It has no rights, for the very same reason that it has no duties.

Equally unjust, and an amazing revelation of intellectual incompetence, is the recent ruling of the European Court which tells us that gypsies have a "right" to their traditional lifestyle, regardless of our planning laws, and can therefore park their mobile homes in whatever beauty spot should take their fancy. This ruling grants to one person a privilege which is withheld from another, purely on racial grounds. Leave aside the catastrophic consequences for the English countryside; leave aside the fact that only a travesty of the traditional gypsy life can be conducted in a modern mobile home: the fact is that in the name of human rights the European Court has issued a racist judgment. Such judgments follow inevitably from attributing rights to groups, rather than to the individuals who compose them.

The only thing which has rights is the thing which accords rights to others: namely the person. And rights must be paid for by duties. The language of rights belongs to the complex procedure of negotiation whereby people come to terms with the existence of others, and recognise that there are certain things which cannot be done, and other things which must be done, if we are to live side by side in peaceful communities. Detach the concept of a right from that of the person and the result is moral and intellectual chaos.

Those on the Left tend to spread rights too widely, in order to advance their egalitarian schemes. Those on the Right make the opposite mistake, by applying the concept only to human individuals. The law recognises other kinds of person: firms, churches, clubs and schools. And what is recognised by the law is also recognised by the shadow-law which we bring to all our conflicts in order to live by negotiation among strangers.

Those who invoke group rights wrongly attribute personality to something which could not possess it. But institutions *do* possess personality: they are capable of acting rightly or wrongly, of respecting rights and also of trampling on them. And if they wrong us, then we should resent their actions, as prospective male candidates should resent the Labour Party, and as we all should resent the European Court.



A too German Union

Chancellor Kohl has pushed France and Britain too hard, and now they reject his centralising plans

William Rees-Mogg

I begin to suspect that Helmut Kohl and Bill Cash are objectively allies in a common struggle, though subjectively both of them would deny it. It begins to look as though the German political class has despaired of Britain and now believes that the sort of Europe they want to build can only be created if Britain leaves the European Union. The process would be one of constructive dismissal. It also begins to look as though Euro-sceptic opinion in Britain is swinging towards the same conclusion: that Britain would actually be better off outside the European Union, provided terms similar to the Norwegian trade relationship could be negotiated.

What evidence is there for thinking that Germany, at least subconsciously, would now like to create a Europe without Britain? Chancellor Kohl's demeanour at Madrid suggests it. His rebuke to Jacques Santer for failing to keep the commissioners in line shows how intolerant of any dissent he has become. John Major put an entirely rational case for caution on the single currency; he was marginalised even more completely than Margaret Thatcher in Rome in 1990.

Germany has brushed aside all British objections to the federalist European policy, at least in the period since reunification. In 1992, when both the pound and the franc were under pressure in the European exchange-rate mechanism, German policy was clear. The franc was defended at all costs; the pound was cut adrift. As Maastricht had made membership of the ERM the precursor to the single currency, that amounted to a German decision that Britain was not part of the inner Europe, but that France was.

Since German reunification, traditional German cultural patterns have been reasserting themselves. The world can be divided into societies with control cultures on the one hand, and those with liberal and pluralist cultures on the other. Both in Confucian and Marxist influences and in the Mandarin tradition, China is an example of a control culture, whereas the pluralism of races and of the Hindu gods makes India far more liberal. It is no coincidence that India has made a success of democracy whereas China has not.

The great German philosophers, Kant, Fichte, Hegel and Marx, go with Plato and Confucius as philosophers of the control culture. The great English-language philosophers, Locke, Hume, Smith, Mill and the Bostonian William James are liberal and pluralist. The German political tradition is undeniably authoritarian; Frederick the Great, Bismarck, Kaiser Wilhelm and Hitler are notoriously so, but Adenauer and Kohl are also authoritarian democrats.

The nation with so strong a control culture, both in philosophy and in statesmanship, cannot believe that its own vision of Europe's future is not the only one. If the European Union were to be created on the German model, it was bound to be a control structure; indeed the European Union as it now exists is bureaucratic rather than democratic. This structure does not seem in any way unnatural or sinister to most Germans, however democratic, but it does seem unnatural and sinister to most British people, as it would to most Americans. The French are more divided; their political tradition is one of autocracy interrupted by revolution.

The European fishing debate in the Commons, in which the Government was defeated, shows how far this British reaction has already gone. The debate was generally reported as though its significance was that Bill Cash had voted with Labour. Not so. The significance was that Labour voted with Bill Cash. Of course, the European fishing policy is a disaster, like the common agricultural policy. Of course, it damages British interests and has virtually destroyed our fisheries. But such damage is the price we pay for membership of the European Union, and Labour would have no chance of changing the policy. The vote against the fisheries policy was logically a vote against the whole European bargain.

Does this all mean that Britain is moving, however gradually, towards the European exit? Probably not. Germany and Britain may be closer to contemplating a divorce — I think they are much closer than either realises — but events in France and Russia have been changing as well; in both countries the changes will tend to reduce German power. They therefore make a pluralist Europe more likely and a fully Deutschified Europe less of a threat.

The Russian elections were a major victory for the Communists. The Carnegie Centre estimates that the Communists and their allies will have 160 seats in the new Duma, out of a total of 450, and the LDP, which is fascist, will have 50. The two pro-democratic parties, Our Home Is Russia and Russia's Choice, will have 80 and 20 respectively. The rest of the members will be independent. That is a Weimar-like assembly, and crime and economic conditions are so bad in Russia that an authoritarian presidency, of one type or another, is very possible in 1996. The next presidential election is only six months away.

Chancellor Kohl has been able to lean on his smaller neighbours, in the style of a Japanese Sumo wrestler. The normal balancing power to Germany, Russia, has been temporarily removed. The Duma elections suggest that the Russians are now moving towards a reassertion of their presence, possibly in a benign form or possibly in a dangerous one. By the end of next year there will probably be some Russian counterbalance to the German dominance in Eastern Europe. That alone should lead the Germans to recognise the interdependence inherent in their position. Germany has medium-term economic and welfare problems as serious as those of France. A Russian resurgence could also lead to a dangerous last-minute rush to complete the creation of a European Union on the German model.

The French strikes were a defeat for the Juppé Government and a warning to the French bureaucratic oligarchy. *La France profonde* has had as much as it can take. Despite French unemployment, with youth unemployment close to 30 per cent, the Germans have insisted on further deflation so that France can meet the Maastricht convergence criteria. The French people have suffered enough; they will go no further. President Chirac is not at all a great man. He has always been a cardboard bulldozer. It would take an exceptionally great man, convinced that it was France's destiny to become a Francophone Bavaria in a greater German Europe, to carry the policy beyond this point. Either Chirac will freeze in his tracks, or he will panic, dismiss Alain Juppé and change the policy.

The truth is that Chancellor Kohl has got it wrong. He has, almost intentionally, converted Britain from friendship towards Germany and the European idea to a scepticism not unmixed with hostility. He has pushed France further than the French were willing to go, and is in danger of losing the Franco-German alliance. In domestic policy, he has allowed German labour costs to become the highest on earth, with half of the cost going on welfare. German productivity has slowed dramatically during his period in office. He taxes German industry at twice the British rate. He has wasted the advantageous period of Russian weakness and withdrawal on a scheme for Europe that has alienated those nations he could not bully. After the reunification of Germany he began to think he was Bismarck, but he does not have Bismarck's economy, or his army, or his statesmanship. The reunification was one of history's great events; what he has done since has been one of history's great mistakes.

Britain would no doubt choose to leave a German-dominated Europe with a bureaucratic control culture. We should prove extraordinarily bad citizens of such a state, and the Germans would be happy to see us go. But such a Europe is not now very likely to come into existence. The Germans can bully the Italians, but, for different reasons they cannot bully the British, the Russians or, from now on, the French. The ideal of a democratic and pluralist Europe is still the best one, and it is nothing like as impossible as it now looks.

Honour among friends

David Ashby will not sink, says **Peter Riddell**

David Ashby's personal and financial humiliation is not going to be allowed to threaten the future of the Government. The Tory party looks after its own: not because of sentiment, friendship or some unwritten code of behaviour, but through simple self-preservation. MPs may privately revel and snigger at colleagues' discomfiture, but they help one who is down. Mr Ashby has never been part of the Westminster club. Always a loner, he was advised not to pursue his disastrous libel action. But his troubles are not his alone. If he were forced into bankruptcy he would have to stand down as an MP, and the Tories would face certain defeat in the subsequent by-election, further jeopardising their slim majority. This will not happen.

Tory MPs are rallying round him, because if he sinks, they will all suffer. To use a senior Tory's word, they will try to keep him "buoyant", both financially and to prevent him doing anything reckless. Fellow Tories, many of whom had not spoken to him for years, cheered when he asked a question in the Commons on Tuesday. And there is talk of a financial support operation.

As a mixture of prefects and informers, the Tory whips try to prevent scandals developing, or at least from becoming public. They have their own intelligence network and a black book of MPs' quirks and misdemeanours is locked away in their common-room-like office off the Members' Lobby.

The Metropolitan Police rings the whips' office first if an MP gets into trouble. Police immediately contacted the Tory whips in February last year when they found what they correctly believed to be the body of Stephen Milligan in bizarre circumstances. One of the whips' duties is to bail out MPs in trouble. In the late 1980s, they were more than once called out after a minister, now no longer in the House, was picked up in gents' lavatories, usually pretty drunk. None of that ever became public.

When scandals emerge in the press, the whips try to minimise the impact on the party generally. Offenders are left to justify themselves in the media and to their local parties. Most scandals are forgotten in time if the MP mends fences with his local party. Tim Yeo's infidelities were the big post-Christmas story two years ago and he had to resign from the Government. But he was recently reselected by his constituency party in Suffolk with no fuss.

Financial scandals usually take longer to flare up. It all depends on when, or whether, the affected MP notifies the whips. When John Heddle killed himself in December 1989, after facing big losses over his property interests, senior whips said they would have tried to help if only they had known. But Heddle was a proud man, reluctant to ask for assistance.

There is no secret slush fund: the Tory party has financial problems enough of its own. Tory supporters, whether local party members or big individual donors, would be furious if their money were diverted to help someone in financial trouble. What happens is more informal. As one former chief whip told me, the whips act as contacts, like substitute bank managers of the old school. They put the MP in touch with people who may be able to help.

Help is sometimes arranged by one of the whips or a senior backbencher. Rich individuals and wealthy MPs, a number of whom still have millions of family money, are asked to provide loans to ensure that the errant MP does not go bust. Often, of course, the assumption is that loans will not be repaid.

By definition, these exercises are secret — akin to the Bank of England lifeboat to rescue companies, which is counted a success if it remains invisible. But ministers confirmed yesterday that a number of Tory MPs had been helped out in the current Parliament: some whose companies had run into trouble in the early 1990s, and some victims of Lloyd's.

A rare example of a public rescue involved Harvey Proctor *after* he was forced to step down at the 1987 election after his conviction for gross indecency. Matthew Parris records in his *Great Parliamentary Scandals* that Mr Proctor retained the support of the whips, and that a group of 16 Tory MPs and ministers from across the party (including two who later had to resign themselves) invested a total of £80,000 in a new men's shirt shop which he set up in Richmond.

A support operation is now being discussed for Mr Ashby, although he will not have to find any money for some time. It could take until the summer for the costs of the case to be finalised, and then he could have a further couple of months to appeal against this assessment. So any help might not be needed until next autumn at the earliest. Even if the worst does occur, Mr Ashby might not face bankrupcy for almost a year, and the Tory whips could then delay any by-election until spring 1997, when a general election will anyway have to be held. The Tory club will ensure that a personal disaster does not turn into a collective catastrophe.

Justice done

MYRA HINDLEY has a new lawyer — a petite brunette in her mid thirties, who goes by the name of Carolyn Taylor and happens to be the niece of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth.

News of her appointment to Myra Hindley's cause came as MPs decided this week that it was "wrong in principle" for a Home Secretary to have the power to keep murderers in jail once they have served their time.

It also comes just after the Moors murderer put her case for freedom in a 5,000-word "essay" in *The Guardian*.

Fellow solicitors said yesterday that the appointment did not surprise them. Carolyn works from Taylor Nichol in Finsbury Park, north London. "The practice has a profile of representing prisoners," says one. "She is very much respected because of her independent disposition." Hindley's previous lawyer, Andrew McCooey, says he has represented her for seven years: "but eventually I found the media intrusion excessive."

Her partner in the practice, Jim Nichol, represents the Bridgewater Four and was at one time a member of the Socialist Workers Party. But Carolyn is not believed to share his Trotskyite persuasions.

Yesterday, the Lord Chief Justice would not comment on his niece's remarkable appointment, and Carolyn herself was not answering calls.

● *Should John Major's fishy rebels need a nerve-centre for their piscatorial activities, they need look no further than the Laughing Halibut, a fish-and-chip shop beloved of some of Westminster's sturdier fellows. The manager is offering a free fish supper to any member who defied the whip to stick up for the British fleet.*



"It's amazing how many they cram into Holloway"

Daisy chore

HUGH GRANT and Emma Thompson were reduced to crawling on hands and knees during the filming of the latest Jane Austen adaptation, *Sense and Sensibility*, which opens in the new year. The entire crew and cast were roped into a madcap scheme to pick every single daisy on the lawn at Montacute House in Somerset.

The Taiwanese director, Ang Lee, was shooting a winter scene at the National Trust property in the middle of June when he realised daisies were not exactly seasonal. "He asked everybody to help to pick them out of the lawn," says a National Trust representative. "It took ages. I have never seen so many bottoms in the air."

Party poopers

JOHN MAJOR'S tormentor John Redwood has been hit by burglars in his Wokingham constituency. The hoodlums made off with the sharp-eared one's Christmas restoratives — his bottles of whisky, claret, champagne and sherry — all carefully selected from the House of Commons cellars.

A number of the bottles were earmarked for party workers who supported the former minister when he challenged Major for the party's leadership this summer.

Out of site

LORD ST JOHN OF FAWSLEY, the perfectly proportioned president of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and occasional escort of Princess Margaret, is in a frightful flap over plans for a statue at Westminster Abbey.

In his capacity as chairman of the Fine Art Commission, he is appalled that Westminster Council is even contemplating allowing the Innocent Victims Memorial to be erected on the north green.

"Both the memorial and its proposed siting are wrong. Westminster City Council should reconsider the whole idea," he shudders. "It is a figurative statue of a woman in a long frock fleeing with her child, whereas it should be abstract like the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The statue might work if it were by Epstein or Michelangelo but this is quite wrong."

The council is contrite under the onslaught. "The quality of the design will be looked at again."

● *José Carreras, the smallest of the three tenors, has been learning Chinese in secret to impress his fans in South-East Asia. On an album due out next year he warbles a track in Chinese called "Kazakhstan Folk Song". Other songs on the album are in Spanish, English, Italian and Latin. European admirers, however, will not be able to enjoy this unusual track. "The European version will not include it," says his music publisher. "He said it would be incongruous."*

Pattenbook

CHRIS PATTEN'S middle daughter, Laura, cut a dash when she arrived in Hong Kong in a mini-skirt stylish enough to raise eyebrows around the colony's cocktail circuit. Now the Governor's delightful youngest daughter, Alice, is causing something of a stir in the country set. She makes her teenage debut this week posing as one of the "girls in pearls" for the frontispiece of *Country Life*.



Country girl

In the past, it has been her two terriers, Whisky and Soda, which have hit the headlines. Whisky once bit a workman in the Governor's House and Soda vanished in 1992, giving rise to fears that he had been turned into a succulent Eastern dish.

P·H·S

SOLDIERS IN THE SNOW

Salute to the men left to deal with politicians' wars

Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the commander of the United Nations force in Bosnia, has now relinquished his responsibilities. He has conducted his command with great astuteness and resolve in terrible circumstances. As it takes over, Nato owes him a considerable debt: his decision last September to take on the Serbs made possible the settlement the Alliance is now committed to enforce. The earlier lessons of this thankless, under-equipped and confused UN mission must be absorbed: but as it ends, tribute is due. UN troops saved thousands of lives, kept a lifeline open into Sarajevo and, in many cases with acts of individual heroism, tried to limit the devastation of war on countless small communities. In the effort, 214 Unprofor soldiers were killed and 1,500 wounded.

The guns which the UN could not silence are now quiet. The treacherous task of turning the absence of war into a stable peace now falls to Nato's "Joint Endeavour". There is no veiling the risk of military casualties in this operation, in which 13,000 British troops will be engaged, and the political risks are if anything greater than the military. The Bosnia operation will set the pattern for America's future strategic relations with the European continent. It must not fail. Nato could founder with it. But nobody would have chosen Bosnia, in all its complexity, as Nato's post Cold War testbed. The Alliance will have failed if its military power merely suppresses this conflict temporarily, only for it to break out when the Alliance departs. But to achieve genuine success — civil peace in Bosnia and lasting stability in the Balkans — will be a tall order.

The Bosnia accord contains strong guarantees backed by all the major powers. It is also flexible about the detail of implementation. The fact remains that it enshrines what is at best a half-peace: and for the future, it attempts the trickiest of combinations — between a physical partition of the country and a legal assertion of its continued territorial integrity as a single state.

In Paris, another fiction was affirmed: Nato is there with the consent of all parties. That may be so, at the top, but it will rapidly be put to the test when the Serbian suburbs of Sarajevo are returned to Bosnian government control: when, in the British sector, land now under Muslim-Croat control comes to be handed back to the Serbs; and in the disputed Posavina corridor which is to be jointly policed by US and Russian troops. The decisiveness with which a British contingent yesterday swept past Serb checkpoints on a former front line in Western Bosnia must be the pattern of the next few weeks and months. There must be no repetition of the humiliating UN haggling at wayside roadblocks with local militias.

The first challenges are physical. Winter weather, which has already delayed some troop deployments, dominated the formal hand-over at Sarajevo airport yesterday: freezing fog prevented Admiral Leighton Smith, the overall Nato commander, from landing. But winter in Bosnia has tended to be on the side of peace: the race is to achieve a semblance of stability before the snows melt. Nato's first task will be to separate the combatants; but by next summer, the mission is expected to have created sufficiently stable conditions to enable the elections to be held which, in theory and in hope, are to enable Bosnia's citizens to cohabit in peace.

Nato's political leaders have ordered a well-trained, adequately equipped force of 60,000 to impose respect for an imperfect peace treaty after nearly four years of fighting in which every law of war and of peace has been brutally broken. The troops from Britain, America, France and 29 other Nato and non-Nato countries now preparing for a Christmas of cold comfort and hard months ahead have the right to expect steadfastness of those at home when the going gets rough, as it will. There must be no panicked calls to quit, no loose talk of quagmires, no carping at field commanders. Nato has a sound peace enforcement strategy and well-trained troops. Never has it been more true than in Bosnia that soldiers are left to deal with the wars which politicians have made. After years of political bungling, these soldiers come late to the rescue of peace. We wish them Godspeed.

NEW SPIES FOR OLD

MPs need to look closely at how MI5 fights crime

Rather than shed its spies who have been made less useful by the end of the Cold War and the Irish ceasefire, the Government has often preferred to redeploy them. MI5 first took overall responsibility for fighting terrorism and, in a Bill published yesterday, is given a widened remit to allow its officers to conduct operations against organised crime. Tom King and his colleagues on the Commons Intelligence and Security Committee should feel free to ask hard questions and to set benchmarks by which they will judge the success or failure of using MI5 to combat crime. They laid out some of the unresolved issues in a short report yesterday, but they can and should probe more deeply.

The committee refers to the "distinct package of skills" which MI5 can bring to law enforcement. But yesterday's report takes as read the Prime Minister's assertion to the Conservative Party conference that MI5 will be able to add value to all existing measures against organised crime. The MPs should want to know whether or not the Government is being bamboozled into maintaining the budget of a counter-intelligence agency which no longer has to spot Warsaw Pact spies and which may one day be able to relax its efforts against the IRA. To be worth continuing and worth defending, MI5 operations against organised crime must represent value for money and avoid duplication with existing agencies.

This is not merely a matter of good housekeeping. The policeman aims to put the drug dealer or money launderer out of business by putting him out of circulation. To achieve that, the detective needs both intelligence and evidence good enough for a court. The intelligence officer, by contrast, needs to know and to understand well enough to warn or advise his customers in Government. By any means his superiors will allow him, he must acquire information which his target does not know he has.

The argument that the Mafia, Yardies or Triad gangs are a threat to national security is flimsy. The case for MI5 help is more technical and was succinctly expressed by an MI5 director who retired this year. The police, he said, were expert at covert information-gathering in short term, reactive investigations. MI5 specialised in the longer term, "learning the command structures, understanding the people and the pattern of illegal activities". MI5 can warn and alert other authorities about criminal conspiracies which are exceptionally difficult to penetrate. But their skills may only be of indirect help in putting criminals behind bars.

Mr King's committee is therefore quite right to stress that there is no element of merger in the new relationship between MI5 and the police: the police remain in control. The application of that cardinal principle may lead to some internal reorganisation of police forces and Home Office agencies. The committee says that MI5 should act "in support of" the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS). To judge by last summer's report from the Commons Home Affairs Committee, the NCIS may not yet command either the powers, resources or maturity to master its tasks. Intelligence agencies attract a lot of attention; but bodies such as the NCIS are at least as important in strengthening the nation's defences against transnational criminals.

DREAMING OF . . .

The day when it is never the wrong kind of snow

On a visit to Washington during the war, the story goes, Churchill asked to see Isaiah Berlin, a bright young man he had heard was working in America. Sitting down expectantly to talk to the great mind, he asked him what he considered to be his greatest work. Irving Berlin, still puzzled at the urgent request to meet Churchill, promptly replied: "White Christmas."

With due deference to the Oxford philosopher, Irving's work does indeed eclipse that of his namesake in popular acclaim. No Christmas is now safe from Bing Crosby crooning in every pub and supermarket. No bookie can refuse the wager every betting Englishman is tempted to place that snow will fall on Christmas Day.

This year, many bookies are regretting the generous odds they gave last summer when drought seared the land. Anti-cyclones are fickle fortune-tellers. The bookies ought to have taken fright at the £3,500 bet placed at 7-1 two weeks ago that a single flake of snow would fall on the roof of the London Weather Centre on December 25. Did the punter have an infallible piece of prescient seaweed, or his own meterological balloon anchored in his back garden? At any rate, the odds are now down to 2-1.

The Victorians, led by the German Prince Albert, are responsible for the notion that snow is an essential festive trimming. Perhaps it was indeed colder in those days: but even if the snow did lie round about, it was rarely deep or crisp or even. More often it would have been grey from coal soot, slushy from horses and carriage wheels or mixed with the mud of unmade roads. Snow has fallen on the Christmas image ever since and cannot be brushed away. Indeed so powerful is the white blanket covering the Western imagination that those countries deprived of the fluffy substance at this time of year have to invent their own.

Snow cannons are roaring full-throated in Los Angeles to create a winter wonderland beneath the permanently blue skies and mild breezes of Southern California; showbiz stars sweat in woolly clothes and ermine trim to croon through the old carols for the Hollywood Christmas spectaculars. And though the barbie on Bondi Beach may now be part of the Australian Christmas ritual, the cards and the hymns are dusted with snowy powder.

The weathermen, like Santa, will have their day on Christmas Eve: the entire nation, especially the bookmakers, will hang on their predictions. This is the one time of the year when no one cares if it is the wrong sort of snow: all that matters is that it falls, gently, from the sky.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Implications of ruling on Oflot

From Dr P. J. G. Butler

Sir, The unfortunate predicament of Mr Peter Davis (report and leading article, December 20) appears to me to be symptomatic of a major problem in Britain today, namely the apparent assumption that a training in accountancy fits someone for every position in management. Accountants often appear to place cost-efficiency above any other value.

Mr Davis thought he was doing the correct thing in saving money on his flights around the US and placed that above the other value of avoiding any apparent conflict of interest. A similar conflict appears on other occasions, where the accountancy-led board of a company, or even of a hospital, may put cost-saving above other considerations that the public would consider pre-eminent.

It is time that we returned accountants to their correct position, as just one of a number of specialists whose advice should be sought, rather than automatically as the main decision-makers. We might then get back to a process of decision-making which is more widely accepted and not driven only by cost-cutting considerations.

Yours sincerely,
P. JONATHAN G. BUTLER,
2 Heron's Close, Cambridge.
December 20.

From Mr Richard Branson

Sir, Jon Ashworth's article, "When battling Branson failed to hit the jackpot" (Business Analysis, December 19), states some of the criteria used by Oflot in deciding who should run the lottery. However, it put only one side of the story.

We have always argued that the National Lottery contract was awarded on the basis of a number of flawed assumptions and tests which were open to very varied interpretation by the eight bidders in their submissions. Let me give you some facts based upon the *actual* bids.

Our profits-for-charity bid (the Lottery Foundation) projected revenues of £37.4 billion over the 6½ years of the licence. Camelot projected £31.7 billion over the same period.

The Lottery Foundation projected a contribution of £10.5 billion to the National Lottery Development Fund (NLDF). Camelot projected a maximum of £8.9 billion to the same good-causes fund.

The foundation bid projected more than a £1.6 billion additional contribution to the NLDF over the Camelot bid. The foundation would have donated all its profits to charity. This would have meant at least a further £600 million going to good causes rather than Camelot's shareholders.

Peter Davis argued that he could not and would not take into account that all our profits would go to charity, when awarding the contract to run the National Lottery. We disagreed, and still disagree. We submitted market research that indicated that many more people would have been inclined to play if they felt that *all* the profits were going to good causes.

Peter Davis ignored this research altogether and discounted our projected turnover figure to a level that put Camelot ahead. He stated that he felt our turnover figures were far too high. With hindsight, they were too low.

This letter would not have been necessary if Oflot had published the full details of the bid. In the interest of more open government maybe one thing that can be learnt from all this is that decisions of this magnitude should no longer be taken behind closed doors.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD BRANSON,
Virgin Management Ltd,
120 Campden Hill Road, W8.

From Mr Charles Young

Sir, Any hopes the Government might have that more senior managers could be persuaded to move from the private to the public sector will have received a serious setback as a result of the experiences of Mr Peter Davis, Director General of Oflot.

On the evidence, Mr Davis has acted openly and honestly. He consulted officials about using GTech's private jet and noted for the record a long-standing family friendship with a non-executive director of GTech. Nonetheless he has been subjected to a smear campaign which casts doubt on his integrity and damages his character by innuendo.

Life in the private sector can be hard. However, business people and others who are accustomed to the realities of vigorous competition will be unwilling to take on public office if, as a consequence, their privacy can be invaded and their reputations undermined at the whim of politicians and journalists.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES YOUNG,
The Old Rectory, Chipping Warden,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

From Sir Robert Calderwood

Sir, I would like an answer to one question about the conduct of Peter Davis. Did he, knowing of his links, however informal and friendly, with individuals within GTech, the partner in the Camelot consortium, disqualify himself from any part in the adjudication process before awarding the contract to Camelot?

Yours,
ROBERT CALDERWOOD,
6 Mosspark Avenue,
Milngavie, Glasgow.

A broader view of fisheries policy

From Mr Robin Teverson, MEP for Cornwall and West Plymouth (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, By helping to defeat the Government on fisheries policy (report, December 20) a few Conservative rebels have reaped a great deal of publicity. But why do these MPs rebel only on votes that have no impact on the real world?

Tuesday's vote was just an opportunity to pass judgment on fisheries policy over the last year. If they are really interested in a fair deal for Britain's fishermen the rebels should be thinking seriously about reform of the common fisheries policy. Calling for withdrawal from the CFP is merely gesture politics: it does nothing to tackle the underlying problem of providing proper incentives not to over-fish.

The Liberal Democrat solution is not to nationalise fisheries policy, but to regionalise it, creating representative bodies for skippers in each fishery. If Tory rebels would engage with the real debate, rather than just cry over spilt milk, perhaps we could all make progress. Confining their protests to meaningless votes leads me to conclude that they are more interested in saving their seats than in saving our skippers.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN TEVERSON,
Newton Farm,
Metherell, Callington, Cornwall.
December 20.

From Dr R. T. D. Oliver

Sir, There is increasing acceptance that there could be an element of truth in the hypothesis that rising levels of oestrogenic-like agricultural chemicals in the food chain are playing a role in the unmanning of man and causing a decline in sperm count and a rising incidence of testis and possibly also breast cancer.

Having worked on this hypothesis for the last 10 years, I was disappointed that the debate on EC fishing quotas gave no consideration to how to handle the problem of declining fish fertility instead of promoting internecine warfare over how to carve up the ever-decreasing proportion.

With evidence that pollution in the North Sea and Baltic may be a real cause of marine life dying of Aids-like illnesses, as well as having reduced fertility, perhaps the fisheries industry should be campaigning for a reduction in the common agricultural policy subsidies that pay for the chemicals that generate the non-fish food mountains that have in the past so embarrassed the EC.

Yours sincerely,
R. T. D. OLIVER,
St Bartholomew's Hospital,
Medical Oncology Department,
Colston Ward,
1st Floor, King George V Building,
West Smithfield, EC1.
December 20.

Doubts on free access to private land

From the National Chairman of the Timber Growers Association

Sir, The antagonistic approach to landowners by Ms Kate Ashbrook, of the Ramblers' Association, in introducing its draft Access to the Countryside Bill (report, December 13) is to be deplored.

There has evolved a remarkable degree of consensus and goodwill between the various countryside bodies. Real progress has been made over vexed issues such as public access. My association encourages woodland owners to permit public access where appropriate. Many private woodlands are open to the public.

A statutory freedom to roam in all woodlands, backed by the criminal law, would not win hearts and minds amongst woodland owners: it would lead to the polarisation of views and opinions.

Yours faithfully,
M. CRICHTON MAITLAND,
National Chairman,
The Timber Growers Assocation,
5 Dublin Street Lane South,
Edinburgh 1.
December 14.

From Mrs J. A. Scott

Sir, When I once owned land with a footpath across it, my experience was that proper ramblers caused little problem.

The difficulty was that most of the walkers were not serious members of the Ramblers' Association and did not abide by the Country Code.

They wandered around off the footpath, climbed over dry-stone walls, gradually bringing them down, could not be trusted to close gates securely, and let their children and dogs run wild.

Although it might seem reasonable to allow access to land which is not farmed and is designated as open country, in many areas such access would involve crossing farmed land, with all the problems and anxiety to owners and tenants which inexperienced walkers, however well intentioned, bring with them.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER A. SCOTT,
49 Shamrock Way,
Hythe Marina Village,
Hythe, Hampshire.

From Mr Anthony Perry

Sir, In 1993 I decided to open a 15-acre wood to the public and took legal advice as to my public liability. The advice was "to take such care as is reasonable in all the circumstances to see that [visitors] do not suffer injury on your property by reason of a danger".

Precautions would have involved fencing a pond, putting up warning notices around an old quarry and, where possible, drawing attention to fallen trees, slippery wooden bridges, soft ground etc. The quoted cost of insurance proved prohibitive and would, in any case, have been dependent on carrying out the above works.

I decided to let it be known to local people that they could use the wood; but I had, reluctantly, to decide against opening to the public at large.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY PERRY,
12 Finsbury Park Road, N4.
December 14.

Maths standards

From Mr John Ainley

Sir, If Sir Wilfred Cockcroft's report, cited by Professor Emeritus Anthony Ralston in his letter of December 13 [see also letter, December 18], noted 13 years ago that "the evidence is strong that the use of calculators has not produced any adverse effect on computational ability", then the report was surely wrong. Thirteen years later, those teaching mathematics to children don't need reports or the results of research to tell them that the very opposite is true.

Pencil and paper calculation does not mean that children lose understanding of the purpose of what they are doing. Is this another conclusion borne out by research? It means that they have the opportunity to think, not just press buttons.

What is sad is that someone with Professor Ralston's academic clout should lend his support to such a hopelessly misguided theory. Many teachers of mathematics, like myself, will be appalled by his assertions.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN AINLEY,
8 Foscote Road, Hendon, NW4.
December 13.

Sound of music

From Dr Max Prola

Sir, Without a trace of disapprobation, your opera correspondent reports ("Offenbach the musical, by Frayn", December 13) that the ENO now openly admits in its programme to the use of electronic amplification of voices in its current production of *La Belle Vivette*. But, he continues, "it's a useless precaution: either singers sing words or they don't, and microphones can't change that."

But singers sing musical notes primarily, and electronic means can be used to provide them with a volume of sound that they truly do not possess. Worse, it is now possible electronically to alter pitch and tonal quality, not only in recording sessions, but during an actual performance.

Although (probably) sparingly used at the present, such artificial enhancements of musical performance threaten the foundations of opera and should be discouraged at every opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
MAX PROLA,
The Croft,
High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire.
December 13.

Ashtrays à la Carlyle

From Mr Robert Moore

Sir, Regarding the paragraph in your Diary of December 13 about the Carlyle in New York (and it is never the Carlyle Hotel, or the Hotel Carlyle, but simply the Carlyle, so there): the Princess of Wales must not be allowed to think that the ashtrays have been glued to the tables because of her transient tenancy. They have always been glued down, because they come from Lalique and they cost a bomb.

I know because I was in charge of the decor there for some 17 years. The housekeeper confided in me: "It's not the people who stay with us, but the people who *visit* the people who stay with us". Of course.

Yours,
ROBERT MOORE,
66 Beaufort Mansions, SW3.

Radio 1's nativity

From Mr T. A. J. Horton

Sir, If your report (December 11; also letters, December 16) is correct then I, as a Christian, must protest against the blasphemous programme intended for broadcast by the BBC. Will the Archbishop of Canterbury remain silent? I hope that he will publicly condemn the BBC's intention.

Yours faithfully,
T. A. J. HORTON,
34 Walden Way,
Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

North/South split on daylight Bill

From Mr Derek Hodgson

Sir, Your leading article ("Lost daylight", December 15) on proposed changes to British Summer Time gives us the tired old myth that this is just a debate about Scotland. It is not. It is also about construction, communication and delivery workers throughout the United Kingdom.

My concern is with the 90,000 postmen and women in Britain, the majority of whom must be on the street by 7am. The proposals of John Butterfill's Private Member's Bill would force them to work in darkness, with staff in Scotland and the North of England delivering in the dark for over three hours.

The tourist and leisure pressure groups lobbying for this change maintain that road deaths and injuries, especially among children, would fall if we put the clocks forward one hour. In reality roads would be much more dangerous on winter mornings, arguably safer on winter afternoons and as deadly as ever for the rest of the year. Child deaths on the roads are in fact at their highest during the longer evenings of the summer months. During the Government's experiment with British Standard Time between 1968 and 1971 road accidents involving postal workers more than doubled.

This is not a debate about Scottish farmers: the proposals would affect the livelihoods and working conditions of hundreds of thousands of workers who tirelessly serve the public throughout the country.

Yours etc,
DEREK HODGSON
(Deputy General Secretary (Postal)),
Communication Workers Union,
CWU House,
Crescent Lane, Clapham, SW4.
December 15.

From Mr D. H. R. Holland

Sir, Once again, Scottish interests have prevailed and the Cabinet has rejected the notion of aligning our clocks with Europe. I simply cannot understand why the great majority of English people cannot have what they want. When the Scots have finally devolved themselves, as seems more than likely in the not too distant future, they can have what time they like.

As a compromise, I suggest that we should change our clocks at the same time as France, Germany et al, and that we should move the clocks forwards and backwards two hours each time. This means that at least during the summer months, we would have the same time as our most important European partners.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOLLAND
(Director),
Holland and Sherry Ltd,
9 Savile Row, W1.
December 14.

From Mr Graeme Woolaston

Sir, Your leader on changing to European time advances the strangest argument for this proposal I have heard yet: that it would boost the Scottish tourist industry because of our "very early sunsets". In the months of December and January tourists do not conspicuously throng our streets: those who are here haven't come to enjoy the northern daylight; and when tourists do come in droves, in the summer, our sunsets are anything but early.

If European time were adopted, tourists in Scotland, like everyone else, would find winter daybreak delayed till well after 9am. One can't help wondering what would be the chances of the proposed change passing the House of Commons if it had the same effect in London.

Yours faithfully,
GRAEME WOOLASTON,
10 Uist Crescent,
Stepps, Glasgow.
December 15.

From Mrs K. M. C. Macintyre

Sir, If the Government does "sabotage John Butterfill's Private Member's Bill on daylight-saving time", as your leader puts it, it will, in my opinion, be much the best thing it has done since taking office.

Yours faithfully,
M. R. MACINTYRE,
29 Crescent Grove, SW4.
December 15.

From Mr Michael Harvey

Sir, Surely if there is one subject which is deserving of a referendum it is the question of whether we should adopt Central European Time. It would affect all the people of the United Kingdom so let the people of the United Kingdom decide.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HARVEY,
10 Andrews Close, Epsom, Surrey.
December 13.

Sport on TV

From Mr Simon Olley

Sir, Sport aside (letters, December 15, 19, 20), having just studied the BBC Christmas TV listings, I have decided to withhold my television licence fee on the basis that I paid for the programmes last year.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON OLLEY,
37 St Edith's Road,
Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent.
December 19.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 20: The Princess Royal this evening attended a Christmas Concert and Reception in Gloucester Cathedral.

ST JAMES'S PALACE,

December 20: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this morning opened the new Gatehouse Community Centre, Hartcliffe Road, Bristol, which was built as a result of a partnership between businesses, the local community and the local authority.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Soil Association, Colston Street, Bristol, and met members of staff and supporters.

The Prince of Wales later visited Rexam Medical Packaging Limited, Winterbourne Road, Stoke Gifford, Bristol.

KENSINGTON PALACE

December 20: The Princess of Wales received the Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury).

YORK HOUSE,
ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 20: The Duke of Kent, President, this afternoon attended a Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund farewell luncheon for Lord Barber at the Royal Air Force Club, Portland Place, London W1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE,
RICHMOND PARK

December 20: Princess Alexandra was represented by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mrs Evangeline Bruce which was held today in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, London W1.

Birthdays today

Mr F.G. Berkeley, former Chief Taxing Master of the Supreme Court, 76; Air Commandant Dame Jean Bromet, former director, WRAF, 83; Mr B.E.S. Collins, former chairman, Nabisco Group, 72; Miss Chris Evert, tennis player, 41; Miss Jane Fonda, actress, 58; Mr Bertrand Gachot, racing driver, 33; the Earl of Haddington, 54; Mr James Hill, MP, 69; Mr Walter Hogbin, chairman, Taylor Woodrow International, 58; Mr G.P. Hughes, former tennis player, 93; Mr Peter Johnson, Headmaster, Wrekin College, 48; Sir Frederick Lawton, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 84; Mr Geoff Lewis, racehorse trainer, 60; Mr W.M.M. Milligan, former Principal, Wolsey Hall, Oxford, 88; Sir John Nabarro, consultant physician, 80; Mr Steve Perryman, footballer, 44; Mr Anthony Powell, CH, author, 90; Sir John Quinton, non-executive chairman, George Wimpey, 66; Flight Lieutenant W. Reid, VC, agricultural consultant, 74; Mr T.L. Robinson, former president, DRG, 83; Brigadier V.M. Rooke, former director, Army Nursing Services, 71; Mr Walter Spanghero, rugby player, 52; Mr Greville Starkey, former jockey, 56; Mr Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, 51; Mr Peter Tinniswood, author, 59; Mr Cyril Townsend, MP, 58; Mr James Tye, director-general, British Safety Council, 74; Dr Kurt Waldheim, former President of Austria, 77; Mr Alan Williams, MP, 50; Mr Carl Wilson, singer, 49; Professor Robert Worcester, chairman, MORI, 62.

Appointment

London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association

Mr Peter Gross, QC has been elected Chairman of the London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association and Mr Colin Mackay, QC, has been elected Vice-Chairman from December 13.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as patron, will attend the British Association for Shooting and Conservation/Game Conservancy Trust young shot's Clay Shooting competition at Sandringham Shooting Ground, Norfolk, at 2.30.

The Duchess of Kent will attend a screening of *The Wind in the Willows* at the Curzon Mayfair Cinema at 11.05 in aid of the Renton Foundation.

Christopher Bedingfield

Evening Prayer will be sung in the Chapel of Gray's Inn on Tuesday January 23, 1996, at 5.00pm in memory of Christopher Bedingfield, TD, QC. Tickets are not required.

Appointment in the Forces

Royal Navy

Commodore J.H.S. McAnally is to be promoted to Rear-Admiral and to be Flag Officer Training and Recruiting/Chief Executive Naval Recruiting and Training Agency, in January, in succession to Rear-Admiral J.P. Clarke.

Luncheon

HM Government

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of Members of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group.

School news

Berkhamsted Schools

The Governors of Berkhamsted Schools are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Priscilla Chadwick, currently Dean of Educational Development at South Bank University, as Principal of Berkhamsted Schools from September 1996. The Governors are also pleased to announce the appointments, from September 1996, of Dr Paul Neeson (currently Second Master) and Dr Helen Brooke (currently Deputy Headmistress) as Deputy Principals. These are key senior appointments within the new structure of the Berkhamsted Schools which will consist of a combined Junior/Preparatory School, separate Girls' and Boys' Schools from 11 to 16 years and a Coeducational Sixth Form.

Spratton Hall School

The Governors of Spratton Hall Preparatory School have appointed Mr Robin Barlow as Headmaster from September 1996 to suceed Mr Piers Bickley who retires after 21 years as Head. Mr Barlow is currently a Housemaster at Rugby School.

Bedford Modern School

The Governors of The Bedford Charity (The Harpur Trust) have confirmed the appointment of Mr Stephen Smith to succeed Mr Peter Squire as Headmaster of Bedford Modern School from September 1, 1996, when Mr Squire will retire, having served as Headmaster of the School for 19 years. Mr Smith is presently Deputy Headmaster of Birkenhead School.



PAUL ASHTON

The Prince of Wales in Bristol yesterday, opening the Gatehouse Centre at Hartcliffe and Withywood estates

The Prince of Wales opens centre of hope

BY JOHN YOUNG

JUST over two years after laying the foundation stone of the Gatehouse Centre, in Bristol, the Prince of Wales returned yesterday for its formal opening. As President of Business in the Community, he will certainly be gratified by the success of a project which epitomises his own fervent belief that deprivation, unemployment, crime and vandalism can best be tackled by dedicated grass roots efforts.

The Hartcliffe and Withywood estates, on the south side of Bristol, are among the largest in Europe, with a combined population approaching 25,000. Unemployment, already high, was worsened by the closure of the Wills cigarette factory in the late 1980s with the loss of 5,000 jobs.

Three years ago Hartcliffe erupted in riots, both estates have a high proportion of single parents and families dependent on welfare, and for many of those who live there the handsome, bustling city centre, only five miles away, is a different world which they rarely if ever visit.

In 1985 an action group of residents, concerned about the lack of opportunities for young people to escape the cycle of deprivation, formed Hartcliffe and Withywood Ventures Ltd, and invited city councillors and businessmen to join them in seeking ways to provide jobs and training. Ten years later their efforts have come to fruition in the shape of a spacious, attractive modern 34,500 sq ft building containing workshops, offices, retail shops and community facilities, which has become a focus for local activities and a source of pride for those whom it has afforded the opportunity to set up as entrepreneurs.

In the early days the company received a £230,000 grant from the European Community for training facilities, supplemented by £100,000 from British Telecom. Since then the £1,500,000 cost of the building has been met by £500,000 from the Government's Urban Partnership scheme, a matching grant from the city council, donations from local businesses and fund-raising activities. Business in the Community has also lent its strong support.



Jean Parfitt in the computer training class with Gavin Rowe, 17, and (right) Lisa Turner, 17

Pat Mundy, the centre's chief executive, says that the council was enthusiastic from the start, allowing the group to choose its own green-field site because of its perceived importance in stimulating the local economy. Local enthusiasm is reflected in the fact there is no graffiti, and vandalism has been confined to just one broken window, she says.

Among the projects based at the centre is a furniture recycling operation, which has assisted more than 400 community organisations and charities. Facilities include conference rooms for up to 75 delegates; a day nursery; a popular all-day restaurant and café; and access to photocopiers, faxes and word processors.

So far from being subsidised, the firms occupying the offices and workshops pay, if anything, slightly above the going commercial rate, Brian McInally, the project manager, says. On average at least 200 people, frequently more, use the centre every day. About half the staff of 18 is recruited from the two estates, which also supply virtually all the trainees who, at long last, are being given the opportunity to make something of their lives.

The Gatehouse Centre, Bristol, is one of the winners of the 1995 Community Enterprise Awards, organised by Business in the Community and sponsored by The Times *and Touche Ross.*

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Joseph Whitworth, Bt, mechanical engineer, Stockport, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, Prime Minister 1868 and 1874-80, London, 1804; Joseph Stalin, Soviet leader, Gori, Georgia, 1879; Dame Rebecca West, novelist and critic, London, 1892.

DEATHS: Giovanni Boccaccio, writer, Certaldo, Italy, 1375; Catherine of Braganza, Queen consort of Charles II, Lisbon, 1705; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist, Hollywood, 1940; George Patton, American Second World War General, Heidelberg, Germany, 1945; Gladys Ripley, contralto, Chichester, 1955; Eric Coates, composer, London, 1957; Sir John (Jack) Hobbs, cricketer, Hove, 1963.

The Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1620.

Robert Liston used an anaesthetic (ether) for the first time in a British operation, University College Hospital, London, 1846.

A Pan American jumbo jet blew up and crashed on the Scottish border town of Lockerbie killing 270 people, 1988.

Memorial service

Mrs Evangeline Bruce

Princess Alexandra was represented by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Evangeline Bruce held yesterday in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street. The Rev Simon Hobbs officiated.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM, Ms Artemis Cooper and Sir Nicholas Henderson gave readings.

The American Ambassador attended. Among others present were:

The Duke of Devonshire, the Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury, Patricia Countess Jellicoe, the Countess of Avon, Lady Ivor Churchill, Viscount and Viscountess Norwich, Lady Jenkins of Hillhead, Lord Carrington, KG, CH, and Lady Carrington, Lord St John of Fawsley, Lady Soames, Lord and Lady Quinton, Lord Thomas of Swynnerton, Lord Hesketh, the Dowager Lady Hesketh, Lord and Lady Weidenfeld, Lady Bonham-Carter, Baroness Rawlings, Lord Richardson of Duntisbourne, Lord Lawson of Blaby, Sir Michael Palliser, the Hon William Waldegrave, MP, Lady Rosanagh Raben-Levetzau, Lady Antonia Fraser, the Hon Lady de Zulueta, the Hon Sir Clive Bossom, Lady Gore-Booth, Sir Anthony and Lady Meyer, Lady Henderson, Sir Isaiah Berlin, OM, and Lady Berlin, Sir Ludovic Kennedy, Sir Robin Day, Lady Pitcher, Sir David and Lady Wills, Mr Frank and Lady Katharine Giles.

Mr and Mrs Alistair Horne, Miss Fleur Cowles, Mr and Mrs John Wells, Dr Charles Saumarez Smith, Mr and Mrs Robert Kee, Mr Michael Gillingham, Mr Antony Beevor, Mr Hugo Vickers, Mr Alexander Chancellor, Mr John Colvin, Miss Edna O'Brien, Professor Bernard Nevill, Mrs Barry Till, Mr Alastair Forbes, Mrs Betty Kenward, Mr and Mrs Paul Johnson, Mr Alan Bell, Mr Philip Mansel, Mr Nicholas Haslam, Mr Xan Smiley, Mr Ion Trewin, Mr David Treffry, Group Captain H T Bennett, Mr Charles Harding, Mr and Mrs Aubrey West, Mr John Stefanidis, Mr Tom Meyer, Mrs John Waddell, Miss Sasha Waddell, Mr William McNaught, Mr Stanley Falconer, Miss Audrey Healy, Mrs Alexander Hehmeyer, Miss Rebecca Wilson.

Councillor David Weeks (Westminster City Council), Miss Elizabeth Oliver (representing the Trustees of Albany), Mr Giles Adams (representing the Head of the David Bruce Centre for American Studies, Keele University), Mr John Kelfer (chairman of trustees, American Museum, Bath) and Mr Ian Hall (Bloomsbury International Society for Racial Harmony in the Arts).

Latest wills

Mr Arthur Daniel Passey, of Croydon, Surrey, left estate valued at £6,592,911 net.

Colonel James Ingram Miles Small, of Scremerston, Berwick upon Tweed, Northumberland, owner of the Tweeddale Trio — the *Berwick Advertiser, Berwickshire Advertiser* and *Kelso Chronicle*, left estate valued at £1,423,560 net.

He left £1,000 to St Peter's Parish Church, Scremerston, and £500 each to Scremerston Methodist Chapel and Tweedmouth Old Folks Supper.

Sir Michael Trescawen Austin, 5th Bt, of Okehampton, Devon, late of Barton, Dunchideock, General Commissioner of the Inland Revenue 1965-86, and Master of the Braes of Derwent, left estate valued at £417,710 net.

Yvonne Angela Fish, of London SW7, left estate valued at £1,446,461 net.

She left bequests of effects to personal legatees, £10,000 to the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, and the residue to the Royal Society of Chemistry, for the first seven years the income to be used to assist contributors at the society's conferences and then to be used to advance knowledge in the science of chemistry.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr H.D. Ballin
and Miss S.E. Devine

The engagement is announced between Harry, son of Mr and Mrs David Ballin, of Sunninghill Park, Ascot, and Sarah, daughter of Wing Commander Don Devine, of Ayr, and Mrs Diana Devine, of Ascot.

Mr W.R. Barlow
and Miss L.J. Hacker

The engagement is announced between William Robert, younger son of Mr and Mrs Alastair Barlow, of Bures, Suffolk, and Laura Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Hacker, of St John's Wood, London.

Mr B.S.J. Broadbent
and Miss J.S. Bowles

The engagement is announced between Bartholomew, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Broadbent, of London, SW6, and Spencer, daughter of Mr and Mrs Eugene G. Bowles Jr, of Richmond, Virginia.

Mr G.M. Dennis
and Miss J.C.A. Buxton

The engagement is announced between Gavin Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Roy Dennis, of Inchdryne, Nethybridge, Invernesshire, and Julie, daughter of Professor and Mrs Neil Buxton, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Mr W.H.A. Elborne
and Baroness Dominique von Pfetten-Arnbach

The engagement is announced between William, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robert Elborne, of Seaton, Rutland, and Dominique, eldest daughter of Baron Wolfgang von Pfetten-Arnbach, of Munich, and of Mrs Corinna von Blücher, of Wallgau, Bavaria.

Dr N.F. Glasser
and Miss M.E. Harrison

The engagement is announced between Neill, son of Professor F. and Dr L. Glasser, of Aberdeen, and Mary Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the late Professor R.M. Harrison and of Mrs Harrison, of Oxford.

Mr S.P.J. Monson
and Miss C.V. Browne

The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Barry Monson, of Little Pigstrood, Heathfield, Sussex, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Browne, of Cape Town, South Africa.

Mr T. Skates
and Miss M. Bryson

The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs Jack Skates, of Basingstoke, and Margaret, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs James Bryson, of Bagshot, Surrey.

Dr N.P. Moore
and Miss R.S.M. Evans

The engagement is announced between Nicholas Peter, younger son of the late Mr Nigel Moore and of Mrs Sylvia McKenzie, of Prestbury, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Ruth Sarah Maria, youngest daughter of the late Mr Robert Evans and of Mrs Margaret Evans, of Telford, Shropshire.

Mr A. Perry-Smith
and Miss L. Figgis

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr George Perry-Smith, of Helford, Cornwall, and of Mrs Mercedes Perry-Smith, of Winchester, and Lucy, daughter of His Honour and Mrs Arthur Figgis, of The Forge, Shamley Green, Guildford, Surrey.

Mr D.J. Zuill
and Miss G.L. Robertson

The engagement is announced between Donald, son of Mr and Mrs Morrison Zuill, of Falkirk, Scotland, and Gail, daughter of the late Mr Jim Robertson and of Mrs Frances Robertson, of Toronto, Canada.

Marriages

Mr E.B. Christian
and Miss A.S. Crawford

The marriage took place yesterday at St Luke's, Chelsea, of Mr Ewan Christian, son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel John Christian and of Mrs John Henderson, of Newbury, Berkshire, to Miss Arabella Crawford, daughter of Mr David and Lady Susanna Crawford of Cupar, Fife. The Rev Derek Watson officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Camilla Henderson, Rosie Holland-Hibbert, Christiana Hambro, Charles Woodhouse, Rosie Goddard and Luke Goddard. The Hon Henry Holland-Hibbert was best man.

A reception was held at the Royal College of Music and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr J. Cripwell
and Mrs S. Hall-Garner

The marriage took place, quietly, on December 20, at St Mary's Chapel, Buckler's Hard, between Mr John Cripwell and Mrs Shirley Hall-Garner.

Dr S.S. Yadav
and Miss K.A. Fletcher

The marriage took place on December 18, in Delhi between Dr Sanjay Singh Yadav, son of the late Brahma Nand Yadav and of Satya Yadav, of Gurgaon, India, and Katy, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Fletcher, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Church news

The Rev Mark Wilson, Vicar, Christ Church, Epsom Common, to be Archdeacon of Dorking, diocese of Guildford, succeeding the Ven Christopher Herbert, now Bishop of St Albans.

The Rev Robert Reiss, Rector, Grantham and Rural Dean of Grantham, diocese Lincoln, to be Archdeacon of Surrey, diocese of Guildford, succeeding the Ven John Went, Bishop designate of Tewkesbury, diocese of Gloucester.

The Ven Gerald Brown, Chaplain, St Peter and St Sigfrid's, Stockholm, Sweden, and Archdeacon of Scandinavia retired on November 1, and has been appointed Canon Emeritus of Holy Trinity Pro-Cathedral, Brussels, Belgium, diocese of Europe.

Appointments

The Rev Paul Ainsworth, Curate, Golcar w part-time responsibility for Hospital Chaplaincy (Wakefield): to be Vicar, Moor Allerton Team Ministry, in charge of St Stephen (Ripon).

The Rev Michael Aisbitt, Vicar, South Bank, Middlesbrough: to be Rector, Whitby (York).

The Rev Howard Ansell, Rector, Little Waltham and Priest-in-charge, Great Leighs: to be also Priest-in-charge, Little Leighs (Chelmsford).

The Rev Frederik Arviddson, Assistant Curate, w special responsibility for Botley (Portsmouth): to be Priest-in-charge, Ringwould w Kingsdown (Canterbury).

The Rev Peter Baron, Assistant Curate, St Peter, Monkseaton (Newcastle): to be Assistant Curate, St Saviour's, Guildford (Guildford).

The Rev James Bateson, Associate Priest (NSM), St Paul's, Wilford Hill: to be Priest-in-charge (NSM), Staunton w Flawborough and Kilvington, and continue as Diocesan Officer for Non-Stipendiary Ministers and Hon Chaplain to the British Geological Survey, Keyworth (Southwell).

The Rev Derek Brown, Assistant Curate, All Saints, East Finchley: to be Assistant Curate, St James, West Hampstead and St Mary, Kilburn (London).

The Rev Anthony Chambers, Vicar, St James, Pokesdown: to be *also* Rural Dean of Bournemouth (Winchester).

The Rev Canon Jonathan Charles, Chaplain, King's School, Worcester: to be Priest-in-charge, Burnham Westgate, Burnham Norton, Burnham Overy, Burnham Thorpe and Burnham Sutton w Burnham Ulph (Norwich).

The Rev Brendan Clover, Priest-in-charge, St Pancras, Euston Road: to be *also* Priest-in-charge, Holy Cross, Cromer Street, London WC1 (London).

The Rev Neil Cornell, Vicar, St Martin, Old Dean, Camberley (Guildford): to be the Regional Adviser for South East England for the Church's Ministry among Jewish people.

Retirement

The Rev Jill Evans, Curate, Ludlow Team Ministry, and Diocesan Ecumenical Officer (Hereford): to retire December 31.

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All inspired scripture has its use for teaching the truth and refuting error, or for reformation of manners and discipline in right living. 2 Timothy 3 : 16 (REB)

BIRTHS

ASSERSOHN - On December 14th 1995 at The Portland Hospital, to Jan and Ian, a son, Samuel Harry, a brother for Jenny and Katherine, always remembering Daniel.

BARNARD - On December 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Jo and Terry, a beautiful daughter, Alex Joyce.

COOL - On December 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Pauline and Brian, a beautiful daughter, Olivia, a sister for Giles and Orianna.

GOODRIDGE - On 15th December 1995 at St Helier Hospital, Sutton, to Elizabeth (née Mountford) and Paul, a daughter, Victoria Alice Margaret Jane, a sister for Catherine.

GREENWOOD - On 12th December 1995, at 5.05 am at Wordsley Hospital, to Sophia (née O'Driscoll) and Scott, a son, Brody Byron, a brother for Phoebe, weighing 9lbs 2oz.

KINGDOM - On December 19th, to Philip and Cath (née Hodge), a daughter, Charlotte. All three doing well.

LAYDEN - On December 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Kevin and Karen, a beautiful daughter, Brittany Anne.

MAYFIELD - On December 16th 1995, to Elizabeth (née Paton) and Charlie, a daughter, Rosa.

PARKES - On December 19th 1995, to Sarah (née Lloyd) and Neal, a daughter, Isobel Kate.

PATTERSON - On December 18th in London, to Eleanor (Warr) and Larry Patterson, a son, Michael, a brother for Katharine.

BIRTHS

PEAKE - On 20th December at Princess Margaret Hospital, to Tanya and Anthony, a daughter, Francesca Mary Lowsley, a sister to Patrick.

STRONG - On December 11th 1995, to Sara and Tony, a son, Nicholas Eliot, a brother for Tom and Harry.

THEOPHILOU - On December 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Maria (née Sophocleous) and Phillip, a beautiful boy, Andrew, a brother for Stavros.

WORSDELL - On December 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Sally (née Grimsdale) and Ken, a son, Edward Luis, a brother for William.

DEATHS

ALLEN - Charles Ernest, on 19th December peacefully at home in Northwood. Much loved by Pam, David and Patrick. Cremation at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, on Thursday 28th December at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please, or small donations to the Michael Sobell Centre c/o E. Spark Ltd., 104 Pinner Road, Northwood, Middlesex.

BLOSS - Caroline (Lushington) peacefully at home on 19th December aged 53, after a long and courageous fight against cancer. Loving and loved wife of Patrick and mother of Diana, Victoria and James. Service Shalford Parish Church on 4th January at 11.15 am. No flowers. Donations to Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society or St Luke's Cancer Appeal c/o Aylings, 25 South Road, Guildford GU2 6NY.

COLIN - Peacefully at his home in Norwich, Bishop Gerald Fitzmaurice Colin, Husband of Iris and father of John, Patrick, Anne, Elizabeth and Andrew. Funeral Service at Christchurch, Eaton, Norwich on Saturday December 23rd at 12 noon. Memorial Service at Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday January 6th at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired to The Renal Unit (Norfolk and Norwich Hospital) c/o Peter Taylor Funeral Services, 85 Unthank Road, Norwich.

DEVERELL - On December 18th, Colville Montgomery, GBE, KCMG, CVO, aged 88. Dev died peacefully after eight years' devoted care, first at the Fairmile Hospital, Wallingford, later at West Oak, Wokingham. Much loved and loving husband of Margy, devoted father and grandfather. Former Governor of Mauritius, and Secretary General, IPPF. Funeral at St Nicholas' Church, Remenham, Henley-on-Thames, 2.30 pm Wednesday 3rd January. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Alzheimer's Disease Society, 10 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PH.

EDWARDS - Kenneth Henry Sutherland on December 20th at home aged 91, Husband of Mollie, father of Elizabeth and Charles, Grandfather of Giles, Pandora, Ben and India. Funeral at Barham Crematorium at 12 noon Friday 5th January 1996. No flowers please but donations if so desired to The P.D.S.A. or The Salvation Army. All enquiries to J. Dilnot Smith and Sons, 183 Gladstone Road, Walmer, Deal, Kent, (01304) 380914.

DODGSON - David Scott, Son of the late Captain David Scott Dodgson, the late Mrs Mary Sayer and stepson of the late Brigadier Arthur P. Sayer C.B. Died peacefully at The Hollies, Castle Cary, Somerset on 18th December 1995, aged 82 years.

FREESTON On December 8th 1995 at his home, David Garner Freeston aged 58, dearly loved father of Julian and Melanie and brother of Jennifer. The funeral, attended by family only, has taken place. A Memorial Service will be held at 11 o'clock at St Giles Church, Oxford, on Thursday 25th January 1996. If desired, donations to Oxfam may be sent to Camp Hopson F/D, Northbrook Street, Newbury, RG14 1DN.

HOLDEN - Michael John, OBE, MA, died suddenly on December 19th in Norwich aged 66. Adored husband of Marjorie and proud father of Geoff, Tony, Richard, Katherine, Hilary and Simon. Servant to world fisheries for many years at WAFRI Nigeria, MAFF Lowestoft and then as Head of Conservation Unit DG XIV European Commission. Funeral at Horsham St Faith Crematorium, Norwich, on Friday 29th December at 1pm followed by Memorial Meeting at Hotel Nelson, Norwich. All friends and colleagues very welcome. Donations, if desired, to RNLI.

HURRELL - On December 19th 1995, peacefully at home, Maria Hurrell, widow of Handy, much loved mother of William and Martha and adored grandmother. Funeral Friday December 29th at 2.30 pm All Saints Church, Harston. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to All Saints Church.

JENKINSON - Suddenly but peacefully, on Tuesday 19th December, Ellen (Jenky) aged 89 years, of Temple Sowerby, Penrith, Cumbria.

KILPATRICK - Tom, C.B.E., M.A. (Oxon), peacefully at his home in Sheffield on Tuesday 19th December 1995 aged 83 years. Loved and loving husband of Margaret, father of John, Colin and David, grandfather of sixteen and great-grandfather of three. A lifetime in Steel. Service at Christ Church, Dore, Sheffield on Thursday 28th December at 12 noon, followed by cremation. No flowers please. Enquiries to G & M Lunt Funeral Directors, 36 Abbey Lane, Sheffield. tel: (0114) 2748508.

LLOYD-KIRK - Ada Alexandra (née Gale) on 18th December peacefully at the Avon Gorge Nursing Home, Bristol. Much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at St Mary's, Leigh Woods, Bristol on Friday, 29th December at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please or donations to The Alzheimer's Disease Society, c/o Thomas Davis (Funeral Drs), Southville Lodge, Southville Road, Bristol.

MERRIAM - On December 17th unexpectedly in Norfolk, Michael Kennedy, much loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral private. Thanksgiving Service in Sherbourne Abbey 11 am Tuesday 16th January.

MILNER - Sir George Edward Mordaunt 9th Baronet, died peacefully on 18th December, at Nalle Valley Klapmuts Cape South Africa.

MULLINS - Ron. Much revered friend and respected caddy at Sunningdale Golf Club for more than fifty years, aged 85. Funeral Wednesday January 3rd at 12.30 pm St Michael's Church, London Road, Camberley. Flowers and enquiries c/o Ford Mears, 25 Frimley High Street, Camberley. tel: (01276) 26663.

NELSON - Ronald Blyth on 19th December, aged 92, peacefully in Nanyuki Hospital Kenya.

NIEMYSKI - Michael tragically on 15th December 1995. Will be sadly missed by his beloved wife Sue and mother. Funeral to take place on Thursday 28th December at 1 pm at Winchfield Church, followed by committal in churchyard. Family flowers only. Donations to RSPCA c/o E. Finch & Sons, 123 High Street, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 1TT. tel: (01252) 22281.

POCOCK - On December 19th 1995 peacefully at Hays House Nursing Home, near Shaftesbury, Nancy aged 87 years. Widow of Brigadier John Grahame Pocock, much loved mother of John, Margaret and Robert and loving grandmother of Iva, Clare, Veryan, Emma and Camilla. Funeral at St Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel, on Thursday December 28th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Andrew's Church.

ROBERTS - Suddenly on December 18th 1995 Charles Wace formerly of Trenglaze, Newport, Co. Mayo. Devoted husband of the late Felicity Elizabeth Roberts, and much loved father of Timothy, Guy, Scilla, and Patrick, loving grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral on Friday December 29th at All Saints Church, Thurlestone, Devon at 2 pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu for Church of Ireland Housing Fund (This fund helps widows of the C. of I clergy) c/o J & G Perrott, 18 Duncombe Street, Camberley. tel: (01276) 25852.

SASSOON - Ralph, on 20th December 1995, after a short illness, peacefully in hospital. Much loved father of Sybil, Serena and Edwina, grandfather of David, Rachel, Peter and Anna, and great-grandfather of Emily and Drew. Funeral private. Family flowers only but donations if desired to King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, 6 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HR.

TRETHOWAN - Professor Sir William Henry C.B.E. of Edgbaston (B'ham), died peacefully at his home on Friday December 15th 1995. Private cremation to be held on Friday December 22nd 1995.

WARREN - On 19th December at his home in Romsey, Doctor Richard Moncrieff Warren. A much loved husband, father, stepfather and grandfather. Funeral Service at Romsey Abbey on Wednesday 27th December at 2 pm followed by private cremation. No flowers please - if wished donations to Tenovus Solentside, Southampton General Hospital, SO16 6YD.

WILBERFORCE - Marion (née Ogilvie Forbes) aged 93, died peacefully on 17th December. Funeral Service at Catholic Church, Beeches Green, Stroud, 10.30 am Thursday 28th December. Family flowers only but, if wished, donations to Crossroads (Stroud and District) Care Attendance Scheme, Stuart House, Bott Street, Minchinhampton, Glos.

WITCHER - Adaline Beryl, peacefully in hospital on December 18th 1995, dearly loved wife of the late Campbell Richard Witcher. Funeral Service will be held at Barcombe Parish Church on Thursday December 28th at 2 pm. Flowers or donations if desired for The Royal British Legion, Barcombe Branch, may be sent to G. Trower, 1 Mongers Mead, Barcombe, Lewes, E. Sussex BN8 5BE. tel: (01273) 400630.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BOYNE - Gustavus Michael George, 10th Viscount Boyne KCVO., JP. A Memorial Service will be held in Shropshire at St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, on Thursday 1st February 1996 at 2 pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

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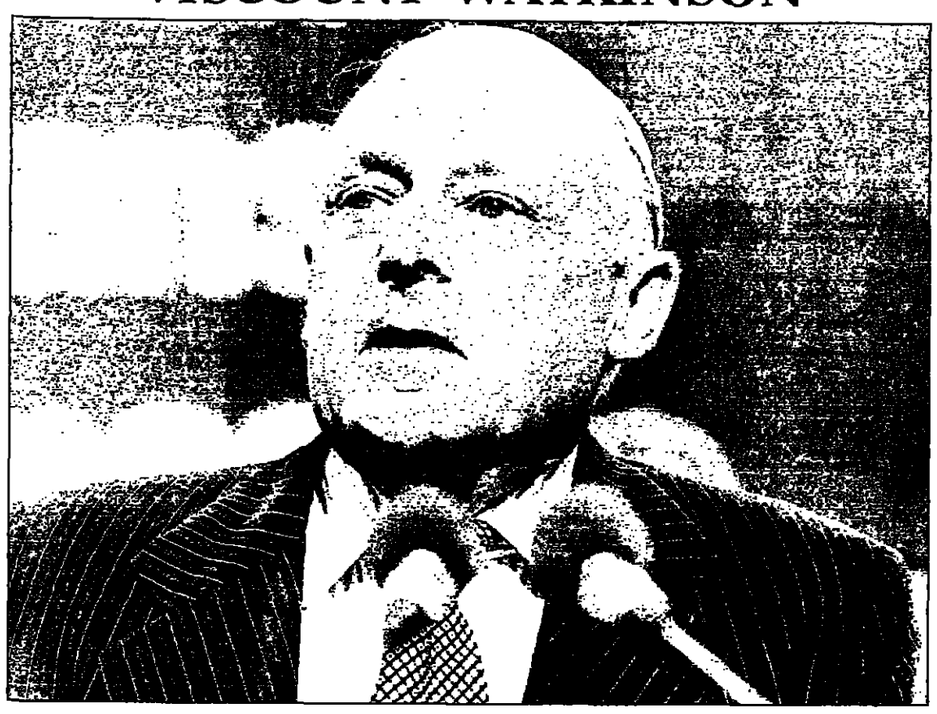
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OBITUARIES

VISCOUNT WATKINSON

Viscount Watkinson, PC, CH, businessman and former Conservative Cabinet Minister, died on December 19 aged 85. He was born on January 25, 1910.



HAROLD WATKINSON was one of the forgotten figures of modern British politics. In fact, if at Westminster he is remembered at all, it is probably for being one of the seven sacrificial Cabinet victims of Harold Macmillan's Night of the Long Knives of July 13, 1962. It was an experience that bit into Watkinson's soul. In his memoirs, *Turning Points* (1986), he recalled with ill-disguised bitterness the embarrassment that his peremptory dismissal caused him, not least in personal terms.

It so happened that on the afternoon following his "unpleasant and emotional interview" at Admiralty House (*No 10 was at the time under repair*) he was due to attend a Royal Garden Party with his wife and elder daughter, the latter of whom he had arranged in advance to present to the Queen. "I had to do it," he writes ruefully, "in the knowledge that I was no longer a Minister of the Crown" — adding, with a touch of bathos, "If the Queen knew, she very kindly did not let it become obvious".

Worse was to follow. The next evening Watkinson was scheduled to preside at a performance of the Royal Tournament at Earl's Court. As he had, while still in office, invited the American Ambassador David Bruce to be his guest, he was allowed to occupy the Royal Box — but not, as he put it, "to take the constant salutes that are part of the display". Nearly a quarter of a century later he still commented wryly that "some officer was provided to fill that role". Between them, those two anecdotes perhaps demonstrate just how far as a politician Watkinson belonged to the *ancien régime*.

Paradoxically, however, in his own time he was regarded as a thoroughly modern figure. A businessman of a progressive cast of mind, he had been chairman of the Tory constituency association in Dorking before being elected to Parliament as MP for Woking in the vintage Conservative year of 1950. Within 18 months Winston Churchill had personally appointed him to his Government — as Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Labour, where his experience of the publishing and machine tool industries was thought likely to come in useful. (His only reservation about taking office arose from the salary — which at that time for an under-secretary was a mere £1,500 a year; but on this issue he soon found himself overborne by Churchill.)

It was probably just as well that he gave way, for his rise in politics over the next decade was swift and assured. Selected by Macmillan to join the Cabinet as Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation in January 1957, he was in October 1959 substantially promoted to be Minister of Defence, succeeding Duncan Sandys in that office. By 1962, though always a somewhat wooden performer in the House of Commons, he certainly qualified as one of the Government's heavyweights — which, no doubt, made the shock of the sudden amputation of his ministerial career all the more hurtful.

Harold Arthur Watkinson came of no great aristocratic background. The son of Methodist parents in Walton-on-Thames, he was sent to Queen's College, Taunton, and from there went on to King's College London, which he left without taking a degree in order to enter the family business of light engineering. He spent the war years in the RNVR, rising to the rank of lieutenant-commander and becoming an expert in anti-aircraft gunnery. Inspired with an interest in politics by the Liberal MP-son of the family's local Methodist minister, he resolved, on returning from the war, to carve out a career in the Conservative Party. It was his good fortune that at the time, following the great electoral carnage of 1945, Tory politics — even in Surrey — were virtually a *tabula rasa*.

In his relatively brief career in the House of Commons — it was all over within 15 years when he was still only 52 — Watkinson always favoured a businessman's approach. He deplored the proneness of governments to adopt short-term expedients and consistently sought to strengthen the managerial process within Whitehall. He could appear brusque or even peppery — certainly his dogged debating style was seldom redeemed by any elegance or finesse. But he took his place on the centre-left of the party and it was characteristic that his main difference with Macmillan should have arisen from their contrasting strategic views.

Watkinson was clear by 1960 that Britain's defence budget — then running at 7 per cent of GDP — could not be made to extend to the worldwide deployment of British Forces, to say nothing of making a meaningful contribution to the Western nuclear deterrent (he had taken office just six months before the Cabinet decision to end the development of Britain's own "independent" Blue Streak).

Macmillan, however, largely for political reasons, took a different view. He was determined to maintain the British East of Suez role, if only to please the Americans; and, from motives of prestige, was not prepared to forgo a national deterrent (however *ersatz*, as with Polaris, it might be). There seems very little room for doubt that this conflict had something to do with Macmillan's decision to replace Watkinson with the more noisy and flamboyant Peter Thorneycroft in July 1962. Having irritatedly rejected the Prime Minister's offer of a baronetcy on his "resignation", Watkinson consented to be created a Companion of Honour as a consolation prize for losing office.

The sudden termination of his ministerial career left him, however, in an awkward predicament. Even after he was rewarded with a viscountcy (by Sir Alec Douglas-Home) on leaving the Commons in 1964, he was far too young and active to play the part of an elder statesman in the House of Lords. It says much, therefore, for his qualities of adaptability and resilience that he should so soon again have come to the fore under the umbrella of such organisations as the Confederation of British Industry and the British Institute of Management.

He threw himself into Britain's struggle for industrial survival, hampered though he saw himself by the defects of both the political and industrial systems which he so well understood. He served for six years as a member of the British Exports Council and chaired from 1964 to 1967 the Committee for Exports to the United States (during which period British exports to America rose by more than 55 per cent).

His principal work, though, was done first as group managing director, 1963-68, and then as chairman, 1969-74, of Cadbury Schweppes. Both these two posts in one of the country's largest and most successful companies gave him considerable weight in the counsels of British business — a position of influence that was reinforced by the publication of his *Blueprint for Industrial Survival* in 1976, the same year, appropriately, that he was president of the CBI. Ill-health forced him to leave the office four months early, though he remained as a main board member of the Midland Bank until 1983. He continued as an inveterate letter-writer to the newspapers, particularly to *The Times*, well into his eighties.

Watkinson is survived by his wife Vera, whom he married in 1939, and by two daughters. There is no heir to the viscountcy.

VITALI SAVITSKY

Vitali Savitsky, biologist and politician, died in a car accident in St Petersburg on December 9 aged 40. He was born in Leningrad on July 18, 1955.



A PROPONENT of democratic principles and traditional religious values, Vitali Savitsky was the leader of Russia's Christian Democratic Union and held one of the eight St Petersburg Duma seats that are open for directly-elected candidates. Although concerned with the preservation of his nation's spiritual heritage, his approach to religion was broadly ecumenical. However, he played an influential role in the drawing up of legislation intended to restrict what he saw as the harmful fanaticism of extremist sects spawned by the collapse of communism.

This earned him a measure of hostility, as also did his proposals to draft laws limiting the parliamentary immunity of deputies — an unpopular move among those who hid shady dealings behind an unassailable political status.

Vitali Savitsky was born to parents who had been imprisoned during the Stalinist era. He received his basic education in a workers' evening class and went on to study biology at Leningrad University where he specialised in genetics. Later he was to be one of the first scientists engaged to measure radioactivity levels at Chernobyl after the nuclear disaster.

Savitsky was a dedicated scientist, but his academic career was interrupted in 1980 when he signed a petition on behalf of Andrei Sakharov and served three years in a disciplinary battalion of the Red Army. This sharpened his political awareness and, though he resumed his studies afterwards, gaining a doctorate in ecological genetics, he risked his career again in 1986 by exposing to the Western press the full extent of the Chernobyl tragedy and publicly indicting Soviet energy policies. That same year he organised an underground seminar at Leningrad University to discuss alternatives to communism.

In 1987 Savitsky became one of the founders of the Christian Democratic Union. The party got off to a shaky start, feeling its way tentatively around a fragile new democracy, splitting and reforming more than once. In particular, Savitsky, as a member of a St Petersburg intelligensia priding itself on a traditional non-alignment with Moscow's power brokers, found it difficult to collaborate with his political counterparts in the capital.

However, by the time of the December 1993 elections, Savitsky had established himself as an ambitious but shrewd statesman. His charisma extended his influence beyond the bounds of the tiny and impoverished party he headed. As well as chairing the Duma committee on social and religious organisations, he continued to campaign on environmental issues and also founded a number of charities to help the disadvantaged.

Savitsky died during the recent election campaign when the car in which he was travelling crashed. It was, according to the Tass news agency, an accident in which the hired chauffeur violated traffic rules in a manner which "cannot be described as a coincidence or attributed to a driver with 20 years experience".

Vitali Savitsky is survived by his wife, a son, and a daughter who is severely handicapped.

RICHARD SHAW

Richard Shaw, chairman and chief executive of Lowndes Lambert, the insurance broking group, died from a heart attack on November 23 aged 59. He was born on June 7, 1936.



RICHARD SHAW helped to mastermind the 1988 management buyout of Lowndes Lambert from the Hill Samuel merchant bank, followed by its flotation on the stock market four years ago. Headhunted in 1979 to "sort out the mess" at Lowndes Lambert for Hill Samuel, he saw it become the 15th largest firm of its kind throughout the world, before his collapse in a West End restaurant last month.

Yet this most colourful of Britain's insurance brokers, who enjoyed a multi-millionaire's lifestyle, was equally well known in other roles. Some remember the Old Etonian who at one time drove a sales van delivering Mars bars to local sweetshops, while to others he was the young crooner who forty years ago tried to make his name in the pop charts. Starting out with a promising voice and an admiration for Frank Sinatra, he got as far as making a moderately successful record — but not far enough to realise his dream of lasting stardom. A number of old friends still called him "Rocky", his stage sobriquet, although he and his wife discouraged the habit.

He was best known to the public, however, as the owner of Hello Dandy, winner of the 1984 Grand National. Its victory in one of the race's more thrilling finishes was, he said, "the greatest moment of his life".

The son of a London solicitor, Richard John Gildroy Shaw was born in Southampton, but brought up with his two sisters at Englefield Green, Surrey. He went to the Dragon School, Oxford, where he was supremely happy, thence to Eton which he regarded with less affection. There he fagged for Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, later to distinguish himself on the cricket field, who was to remain a close friend.

On leaving Eton in 1954, Richard Shaw did his National Service in the Royal Navy. He spent much of his time as a sub-lieutenant serving in a minesweeper off Cyprus during the troubles and briefly toyed with the notion of a permanent commission. He rejected the idea, however, and emerged at the end of his two years in search of a job.

He drifted for the next three years. The position at Mars, which he got through a friend of his father's, entailed driving a bright yellow van with a picture of a tube of Spangles on the hull. It failed to fill him with enthusiasm. This was followed by his brief appearance on the pop scene.

In 1957 he joined the insurance brokers, J. H. Minet and stayed with them for nine years. After a year travelling the world, he moved to another company, H. J. Symons, for three years, then switched to the large broking group, C. E. Heath, as deputy chairman. After something of a stuttering start, Richard Shaw had finally arrived.

In 1979 Hill Samuel lured him away from the Heath board to join their own — and to take over as chief executive at Lowndes Lambert. He was made chairman of the group three years ago.

Shaw was a big man, both literally and figuratively, to whom the phrase "larger than life" was frequently applied. He enjoyed his money (which was largely self-made) and there was enough of it to enjoy. His shares in Lowndes Lambert at the time when it went public in 1991 were valued at well over £4 million.

Shaw had a 130ft yacht, *Moonmaiden II*, for which he needed a ten-man crew, keeping it in the Mediterranean in summer and the Caribbean during the winter. He belonged to the Clermont Club (Lord Lucan *et al*) where he liked to play both roulette and backgammon. He was reckoned to be an accomplished backgammon player. Reluctant to brush aside a challenge from whatever quarter, he preferred to have money at stake when playing golf, because he said it gave an edge to his game. But his game was not bad anyway.

However, steeplechasing remained perhaps his primary interest. He owned or part-owned other horses apart from Hello Dandy and two of them were racing only this month at Lingfield and Cheltenham. He also loved watching cricket and rugby, as well as collecting 18th-century paintings and antiques. A portrait of Henry VIII, a gift from his father, hung on his office wall — as it had done beside him at Eton.

His chief regret was that his father did not live long enough to see him make something of his life. He regarded his father's death and his own marriage as marking the turning point in his career, prompting him to take a more responsible view of life.

His philosophy was that work should be fun and he wanted no subordinate of his to dread entering the office each day. Despite his own laid-back style, he had a reputation for working hard as well as playing hard. He travelled throughout the world in search of business, often accompanied by his wife, and died while negotiating a business deal. Politically, he was an admirer of Margaret Thatcher whose policies had facilitated the development of Lowndes Lambert.

He enjoyed good food and wine, used to smoke 15 cigarettes a day, and was warned from time to time to lose weight. He bought an exercise bicycle to help but confessed to completing two miles on it in five years.

In 1981 he underwent a quadruple heart bypass, but made a remarkably fast recovery. Last year, however, he was warned that he now needed another operation. He was due to enter hospital next February and had planned to recuperate with his wife Yvonne on board their yacht.

His wife survives him together with their son.

ALAN HUNTER

Alan Hunter, CBE, astronomer, died on December 11 aged 83. He was born on September 9, 1912.

ALAN HUNTER spent his entire career as an astronomer at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, (later the Royal Greenwich Observatory, based at Herstmonceux), of which he became director in the early 1970s. His specialty lay in star mapping, and in the measurement of double stars — two stars rotating around a common centre of gravity, from which one can gather information on the scale of the universe.

But his research work was scaled down by the early 1950s, when he became more of an administrator. For a scientist, he enjoyed an unusually open relationship with the media. The BBC invited him to talk on the radio during the early 1950s, and he also appeared on television, and wrote the occasional article for the popular press.

Alan Hunter was born in Poplar in the East End, the son of a Post Office telephone engineer. He was one of six boys, two or three of whom had distinguished careers in science and medicine. He was fascinated with the stars as a child, but was more interested in the scientific aspects of astronomy than in stargazing.

After a local school in Poplar, he went on to study spectroscopy at Imperial College, London, where he got his PhD. In 1937 he joined the staff of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich and, during the war, he worked for the Admiralty on the solution of engineering and hydrodynamic problems with destroyers and submarines at the Royal Naval College at Greenwich.

In 1946 Hunter returned to the Royal Observatory, and there he remained for the rest of his career. He was a member of several expeditions to observe eclipses of the sun. On one occasion, in the late 1940s, he survived an air crash in West Africa on his way to Brazil, a crash in which several of his colleagues died.

Gradually he moved on to the administrative track and one of his first challenges was the removal, in 1954-56, of the Royal Observatory from Greenwich to Herstmonceux in East Sussex. The foggy London skies had never been particularly suitable for stargazing; but Greenwich suffered, too, from continual streetlighting. Herstmonceux was chosen as the right site because of its high levels of sunshine, which boded well for clear night skies.

After several promotions, Hunter became the director of the Royal Greenwich Observatory in 1973. In later years he often travelled to America, Australia and the mountain tops of various Atlantic islands, in order to use the new large telescopes — for instance, the enormous 200in diameter telescope at Mount Palomar, in California (at Greenwich, the largest one had been the Yapp Reflector, at 36in, and at Herstmonceux, the 96in Isaac Newton).

He was appointed CBE in 1975, the year of his retirement, and moved with his wife Joan to a cottage north of Norwich. She died in 1985, and he is survived by four sons.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BACK ISSUES of Newspapers available. Tel: 0800 906609

On behalf of The Sun I would like to wish everyone a magical 1996and a special thanks to Les Hinton for choosing the nine of clubs. regards Howard.

SEA BATHING Hospital Marsden closure of. We are trying to trace any decendants of Dr. John Coakley Lettsom and Sir Erasmus Wilson. Please contact Gillian Vass 01843 228644.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COURT AND SOCIAL PAGE

OVER THE NEW YEAR PERIOD THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES WILL APPLY:

Notices to appear on Thursday, December 28th should be received in writing by noon on Wednesday, December 27th. Notices to appear on Friday, December 29, should be received in writing by 5pm on Wednesday, December 27.

Notices to appear on Saturday, December 30; Monday, January 1; Tuesday, January 2 should be received in writing by 12 noon on Thursday, December 28.

ALL NOTICES ARE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

TEL 0171 782 7347
FAX 0171 481 9313

THE TIMES

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

To place your Birth, Marriage or Death Notices over the Christmas Holiday period please call during the following times:-

Saturday 23rd December: 9.30 - 12.30

CLOSED:- Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th December

Telephone 0171 782 7272

where our staff will be available to take your call.

LEGAL NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986
DUDSET LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Derrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Chesterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 13th December 1995. M.R. DORRINGTON, Liquidator

VIDEOTECH INVESTMENT (UK) LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
Company Number:2157365
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On 19 December 1995 the above named company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Ian McIsaac of Touche Ross & Co., Cedric House, 8-9 East Harding Street, London EC4A 3AS was appointed Liquidator by the members.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the company intends making a final distribution to creditors.
Creditors of the company are required to prove their debts before 12 January 1996, by sending to I McIsaac, Liquidator, at the address given below, written statements of the amount they claim to be due to them from the company. They must also, if so requested, provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the Liquidator to be necessary.
A creditor who has not proved his debt before 15 January 1996 is not entitled to disturb, by reason that he has not participated in it, the intended distribution. The Liquidator may make the distribution without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not already proved.
Dated: 20 December 1995
I McIsaac
Liquidator
Touche Ross & Co
PO Box 810, Cedric House,
8-9 East Harding Street
London EC4A 3AS

JACKSONS LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
ACN: 002 664 301
NOTICE INVITING FORMAL PROOF OF DEBT OR CLAIM
COMPANIES (NEW SOUTH WALES) CODE Sub regulation 10(2)(b) Form 1.20
Take notice that creditors of the above companies, whose debts or claims have not already been admitted, are required on or before 25 January 1996 to prove their debts or claims and to establish any title they may have to priority by delivering or posting to me at my address a formal proof of debt or claim in accordance with Form 131 containing their respective debts or claims. If they do not they will be excluded from:
(a) the benefit of any distribution made before their debts or claims are proved or their priority is established; and
(b) objecting to the distribution.
Form of proof may be obtained from me.
NOTICE OF MEETING OF CREDITORS
COMPANIES (NEW SOUTH WALES) CODE Subregulation 5(42) Form 1.25
Notice is given that a meeting of the creditors of the above companies will be held at The KPMG Centre, Level 25, 46 Clarence Street, Sydney, Australia on 8 February 1996 at 11.00 am.
AGENDA
1 To consider any matters arising out of the administration and the liquidator's report.
2 To approve the liquidator's remuneration.
3 Any other business
The liquidator's account of receipts and payments may be inspected at my office during normal business hours.
Dated 18 December 1995
R J Creelman, Liquidator
KPMG, 45 Clarence Street
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Facsimile No: (612) 356 7088

The Insolvency Act 1986
PERFECT TRAINING LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Derrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Chesterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 13th December 1995. M.R. DORRINGTON, Liquidator

ROYAL PRESENTS

COSTLY EXCHANGES AT THE COURTS OF OUR ANCESTORS

"I am making the King a purse and for all the world else I am unprovided. This time will manifest my poverty more than all the rest of the year." So Lady Arbella Stuart, cousin of James I, lamented in December, 1603. As James and his Queen had come to the throne only nine months earlier their taste in gifts had yet to be probed, but Arbella had heard with relief that the Queen valued style rather than cost. If London did not afford "some daft toy I like better," she proposed for her Majesty two pairs of stockings and two pairs of gloves, and expected to spend on presents a quarter of her yearly allowance of £1,000.

New Year was then the present-giving time. James soon let it be known that he liked his gifts in hard cash, and Arbella's purse would have contained gold pieces according to a tariff based on rank. The kingdom's only duke, Lennox, found his proud position cost him £40 in new sovereigns, as did the Archbishop of Canterbury, whereas earls and bishops contributed half this sum, viscounts £15, barons £10, and knights could either imitate the barons or make presents in kind . . .

Details of these presents with the names of their givers were entered on a scroll — that of New Year 1606 was 10 feet long — the amounts added up, checked by the royal auditors and signed as correct by the monarch. Thus, for all the world to know, is set down that in 1606 the Earls of Rutland and Sussex gave only half the sum due from those of their rank, a lapse James repaid with half the usual quantity of plate. As King, James was not expected to cater for individual tastes, and his gifts were uniformly gilt plate by the ounce. But this plate had to be claimed by a complicated bureaucratic procedure.

The fifth Earl of Huntingdon, who, as his father died on December 31, 1604, had no chance to rehearse the routine of the following day, wrote out a memorandum. First, he needed to buy a 5s. purse in which to put the 20 £1 pieces of new gold. At 8 o'clock on the morning of January 1 he was to attend in the Presence Chamber at Whitehall to give the purse to the Lord Chamberlain. Then he must be rowed down to the Jewel House in the Tower, where he obtained a ticket, for which he put 6d. in "the box", to enable him to receive his own gift. The ticket had to be taken to another office, where he received 18s. 6d. for expenses, and, then, he might return to the Jewel House to choose a piece of plate weighing 30oz, which was marked for him. He could collect it the same afternoon, when he must give 40s. in gold to the gentleman who gave it him, and also put 2s. in "the box" and tip the porter 6d., the price of a workingman's dinner.

Queen Elizabeth had exacted more discrimination in her gifts, and her lists were swollen with the precise descriptions of elaborately wrought jewelry — dolphins, nightingales of gold picked out in precious stones — and the richly embroidered kirtles, petticoats, cloaks, veils, scarves, mufflers, gloves, pillow-slips, and cushion covers which were showered upon her by those eager to please . . .

In 1561 Elizabeth was presented with an unusual — and cruel — gift of 18 larks in a cage.

ON THIS DAY

December 21, 1955

Why the bigger the agent the better

The Consumers' Association has once again upset the big travel companies by calling for an investigation into high street travel agents who recommend holidays produced by their parent tour operators.

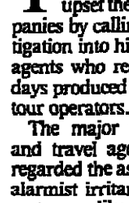
The major tour operators and travel agents have long regarded the association as an alarmist irritant which treats customers like fools who need protection from a rapacious industry.

But the smaller tour operators and some MPs disagree and, like the Consumers' Association, want to control the trend which has created a handful of large dominant groups which own their own airline, tour operator and travel agencies.

With the peak booking season about to begin it is at least a well-timed attack — whatever the merits of the argument. According to the association, every branch of Lunn Poly mentioned its parent company when asked for advice, even though, they admit, an alternative holiday was suggested in every case.

In Going Places shops 10 per cent of inquirers were given no alternative but to choose from an Airtours brochure, owners of Going Places. This, says the association, is "alarming".

Sue Ockwell, director of the Association of Independent Tour Operators, says: "It is very clear that the public is being manipulated. If they were told when they went into a Lunn Poly shop that it is part of the Thomson group then we would have no complaint. But this is not happening and many people do not realise that they are being given advice which reflects the own-



The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

ership of the travel agency and the tour operator rather than what may be best for them."

But that is all nonsense, according to Thomson, which owns Britannia Airways and Lunn Poly, and has almost 30 per cent of the package holiday market.

Marketing director Richard Bowden-Doyle said that their holidays were sold through 6,692 travel agencies, only 783 of which are run by Lunn Poly. And 40 per cent of all Thomson holidays are sold through small high street agencies.

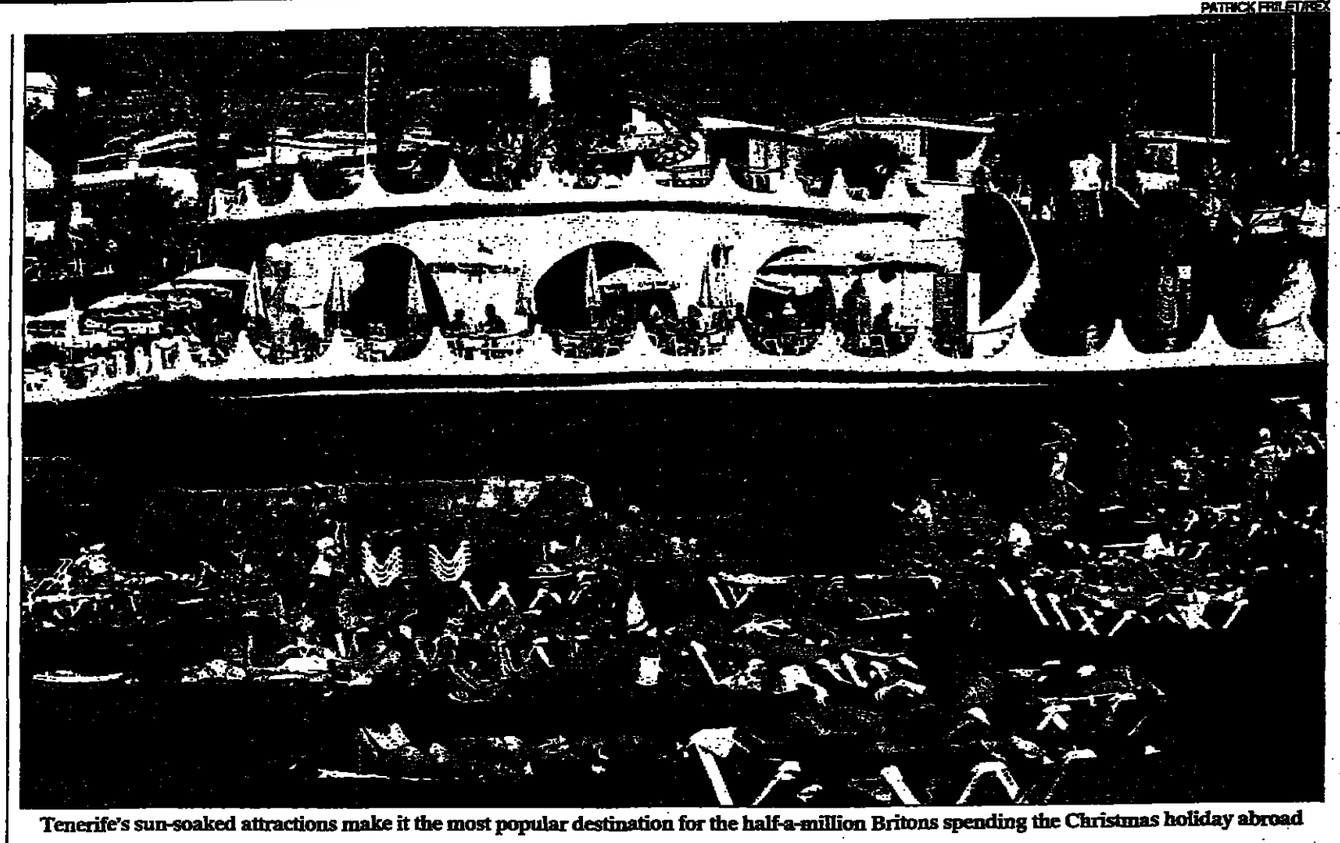
He says: "AITO has lost sight of the fact that the Office of Fair Trading is there for the benefit of the consumer and not just to protect the small travel agent. You certainly can't build a successful business by ripping people off. We must be the only industry where the strong are legally obliged to protect the weak, and we would reject any suggestion that we are misleading our customers."

Big tour operators are all slowly losing market share and seeing their profits eroded as prices are driven down, which proves that competition is both fierce and effective, according to Thomson and the other giants.

The OFT is already having another look at the industry and has promised to decide in January whether it should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

It is difficult to see what the MMC could realistically recommend beyond its earlier demand for shops to display signs indicating to which group they belong. Big companies get that way by being good at what they do. Would it really help the holidaymaker to make them smaller?

PATRICK FRILET/REX



Tenerife's sun-soaked attractions make it the most popular destination for the half-a-million Britons spending the Christmas holiday abroad

500,000 seek Christmas sun

MORE than half a million British holidaymakers will fly away tomorrow to spend Christmas under foreign skies. More Britons are turning their backs on the traditional festivities at home and taking advantage of the extended break afforded by Christmas Day falling on Monday to have ten days away.

Keith Betton, of the Association of British Travel Agents, says: "Everyone seems determined to stretch their holiday allowance to the limit. By going away on December 22 people have realised that if they are not back in their factories and offices until January 2 they will still have used up only three of their holiday days.

"We are a nation of holidaymakers and with a growing number of people who, for various reasons do not have children or immediate family with whom to spend Christmas, there is now an ever increasing demand for foreign holidays in the last week of December."

Travel agents throughout the country say that there is hardly an unsold Christmas holiday package still to be had, and airlines, ferries, coaches and trains are all fully booked until well into the new year. Overall, about 4 per cent more holidays and flights have been booked than last Christmas and ferries are reporting a massive increase in the number of passengers making their own arrangements on the Continent.

P&O European Ferries took 29,800 passengers from Dover to Calais during December last year, but this year it had already sold 38,300 tickets with a week to go before sailing. "The fundamental change this year is that the vast majority are now going by coach," says a P&O spokeswoman. "We are not entirely sure why this should be so, but it is a very noticeable trend."

Brittany Ferries has sold out completely for a round trip to Santander in Northern Spain on board the ferry *Val de Loire*. Passengers, who pay between £79 and £169, leave Portsmouth at noon on Christmas Eve, have a full Christmas dinner on board and arrive at Santander on Christmas evening. They spend the night on board and return, with more festivities on the voyage through the Bay of Biscay, on Boxing Day.

Those who have booked will be anxiously watching the weather forecast for the next few days.

Britain's biggest travel agent, Lunn Poly, says that Tenerife is the biggest selling package holiday destination this season, followed by the Costa del Sol, Florida, the Costa Blanca, Lanzarote, Gran Canaria, Majorca, Italy, France and Cyprus.

By Harvey Elliott

TOP CHRISTMAS DESTINATIONS

1. Tenerife
2. Costa del Sol
3. Florida
4. Costa Blanca
5. Lanzarote
6. Gran Canaria
7. Majorca
8. Italy
9. France
10. Cyprus

Source: Lunn Poly

Thomson says that its holiday-makers are venturing further and further afield with many heading for Sri Lanka and the Caribbean. "All our long-haul charter flights are chock-a-block," says a spokeswoman. "Although the Canaries remain the most popular, many other more distant destinations have sold extremely well this year."

Thomson's big rival, Going Places, says that although the Christmas sunshine market is well up skiing holiday sales are down by at least 5 per cent, possibly because of a lack of early snow on the Alpine pistes. "Florida is proving particularly popular because some very good deals were made available," says a spokesperson for Going Places.

BA Holidays puts Florida at the top of its best-selling list for Christmas followed by Barbados, Thailand, St Lucia, Kenya, Egypt, Mauritius and Australia. British Airways says that a record 126,000 passengers will fly on its services over Christmas.

Thirteen extra Boeing 757 jets, in addition to the seven daily flights between London and Belfast Aldegrove airport, have been laid on to meet the demand to Northern Ireland.

BA says that South Africa has proved the surprise runaway success of the season. Five additional Boeing 747 jumbo jets are being used on the routes to Johannesburg and Capetown to meet demand.

Although there are no domestic flights on Christmas Day, 24 long-haul services will leave Heathrow and Gatwick, and staff have been told to ensure there is a festive atmosphere on board during the flight.

Heathrow is likely to be the busiest airport throughout the week and on Christmas Day itself — although the quietest day of the year for the airport — an estimated 45,000 passengers will still pass through the terminals.

Gatwick expects to handle 700,000 passengers over Christmas with the busiest days on Friday, December 22 and Tuesday, January 2. More than 65,000 passengers are expected on each of the two days.

Snowboards sales double

By Steve Keenan

SNOWBOARD sales have doubled over the last year, with a subsequent rise in the number of overseas holiday bookings. Retailers say the sharp rise in snowboard popularity has seen 8,500 boards sold in the UK this season, compared to 15,000 sets of skis. But the craze does not come cheap. Prices start at £300, rising to £550 for a board and bindings.

"Sales of snowboards have doubled this year but ski sales have declined," says Simon Richardson, product manager of Second Level Sport.

The company is the sole UK distributor for Burton, the American snowboard manufacturers, the market leaders.

"Our age profile of buyers is 16 to 30, with sales spread equally for each age. The market has shown increasing growth, recently growing fast from a sound foundation of interest."

A significantly higher proportion of snowboarders buy their equipment before going on holiday, while skiers are more likely to hire their equipment at the resort, adds Mr Richardson. "A two-year-old snowboard is outmoded because we are in a phase of rapid development. Rental boards tend to be old, so people buy new stuff."

Snowboarders are now estimated to account for 10 per cent of the ski market, according to Crystal Holidays. The market leader has published a separate snowboard brochure for the first time this winter.

"It is a significant issue in the market. We are really thinking of the future and tracking the market carefully," says marketing director Paul Carter.

While the boards may prove expensive, Crystal sales of snowboard packages are averaging £298 on price as opposed to £450 for skiing holidays.

"Snowboarders are younger and tend to go for self-catering, rather than the chalets," says Mr Carter.

"But the big thing is that people are being introduced to the sport at a young age who might not necessarily have been into skiing. It is growing a flat market."

By Kevin Pilley

I COULD have been a contender if only I had been a senior citizen and met the minimum weight requirement. And had gone to the right school. But I had to watch the World Santa Claus Championships from the sidelines. It could have been different if only I had received the proper education.

The first Santa Claus Games were held in Jakobshavn, Greenland. Seventeen Santas competed in traditional seasonal "disciplines" such as ho-ho-hoing, tree decoration and housebreaking. The Danish Santa won the gold medal and the Briton, Fred Wilson, of Debenham's Romford grotto, came fourth.

The event was organised by Peter Williams, a Briton who six months ago made an extreme career move by becoming managing director of the Arctic-based Santa Claus of Greenland Foundation. He is the man who opens the 15,000 letters sent to Santa every year. He is also the headmaster of Europe's first Santa School. He hopes to turn Greenland into a major Santa-exporting nation by offering the chance for suitable candidates to study the art of Santamanship. He claims his is the first college of further education which guarantees its graduates a job for life.

"Being Santa is not child's play. It is not an act. It's an attitude and state of mind," he says. "It is a way of life, not just a seasonal part-time job. We want students who believe in Santa and the ideals and values of caring and sharing he stands for. He is not a bloke who turns up with a big sack, dishes out some presants and then shoves off. He is a powerful force for good."

School for Santas offers job for life



Peter Williams supervises a budding Santa Claus

The Santa School, which has its first three-day term next spring and is now recruiting, has on its syllabus masterclasses in "Developing Your Polar Image" as well as workshops in story-telling. "Santa tells stories, not lies," says Mr Williams. There will also be lectures on Santa mythology, beard hygiene and reindeer lore. Successful graduates will qualify as professional ambassadors of peace and happiness. The Greenland Santa School diploma is recognised by all grottoes around the world.

I sat my entrance exam for the Santa School in the Rudolf Cafe in Nuuk. I had 30 minutes to write an essay entitled "Why I want to be Santa". Before I had finished my first sentence: "I love Custard Creams and milk even if it's got soot in it and I enjoy putting my hand down stockings", I knew I would not be part of the new intake. Mr Williams gave me his "We were looking for someone fatter, older and wiser who lives by everlasting principles children can learn from" look.

Christmas is traditionally a time of giving and Mr Williams gave it to me straight: "Have you ever thought of being an elf?"

● *Santa Claus of Greenland Foundation, Santa House, PO Box 401, DK 39000 Nuuk, Greenland (tel 010 299 22426/Fax 010 299 21220). Tuition costs £50. Beards and costumes are free.*

City breaks

SHORT breaks over Christmas in Paris, Madrid and Vienna, with departures on scheduled flights from Heathrow on Christmas Eve, are still available from Travelscene at prices ranging from £184 to £360 per person for two nights. Details: 0181-427 4445.

Sea view

RURAL Retreats still have a few properties to let over Christmas including an oast house in Kent and a tower in Devon, both for two people, and a house for 15 overlooking the sea near Port Isaac, Cornwall. Details: 01386 701177.

Winter savers

WINTER sales have started at Thomson with savings on short breaks to many European cities in the first three months of next year. Its new CitySavers programme includes three nights in Florence for £195 and Venice for £219, both saving £106. A two-day trip to Paris is available from £89 and three nights in New York £339. Details: 0990 143503.

French leave

NEW Year's Eve at a hideaway hotel in Normandy is still available as part of a two-night break with Intravel, leaving Portsmouth by ferry for Le Havre on December 31. The price, including dinner, breakfast and a celebratory meal, is £145 per person. Details: 01653 628862.

Festive deals

POST-Christmas bargains are on offer from Cosmos, including two weeks in Paphos, Cyprus, departing Gatwick next Wednesday, for £229 per person and a fortnight in the Algarve from Gatwick next Thursday for £169. Details: 0161-480 5799.

Pyramid sale

EGYPT for a week, departing next Thursday, is still available from Crusader Travel. Seven nights at Luxor, Emilio or Pharoan hotels will cost £329 per person. Details: 0181-744 0474.

Down under

NEW YEAR trips to Australasia will cost less with Travel Warehouse, which is charging £639 for Japan Airlines flights to Sydney, Brisbane and Cairns via Tokyo, where a stopover is allowed. Flights to Auckland and Christchurch cost £696 between January 15 and March 15. Details: 0171-414 8808.

BA fares cut

BRITISH AIRWAYS's current range of world offers, which must be booked by January 3 for flights before March, include Athens for £140, Lisbon £114, Oporto £114 and Valencia for £139. Details: 0181-897 4000.

Early savings

SAS has brought back its EarlyBird flight from Heathrow to Gothenburg, Sweden, departing at 7.40am, and is offering business-class passengers a £100 saving on the £474 fare if they return the same day. Details: 0171-734 4020.

Kenyan caper

FLIGHTS to Nairobi, Kenya, are on offer from Quest Worldwide for £305 from Heathrow and Manchester between January 11 and the end of March. Details: 0181-547 3322.

Fly-drive deal

AIRLINE passengers renting from Alamo at major airports in the UK, Ireland, Germany, Greece and half-a-dozen other European countries can now get a bargain rate if they pay in the UK. Inclusive charges start at £58 for two days. Details: 0800 272300.

Simpson's for £8

THE THREE central London restaurants owned by the Savoy Group, Simpson's, Brasserie St Quentin and Grill St Quentin, are offering a two-course lunch or dinner (until 8pm) for just £8 each for up to eight people. The menus are available from January 2 and the offer lasts till the end of that month. Details: Simpson's (0171-240 6888), Brasserie (0171-589 8005) and Grill (0171-581 8377).

Suite price

THE Inter-Continental Hotel on London's Park Lane has opened a new penthouse suite called The Palace covering 140 square metres and costing £1,800 a night. The hotel says that it takes 84 magnums of champagne to fill the bath in the suite. Six new junior suites at prices ranging from £360 to £500 a night have also been added. Details: 0171-409 3131.

Nice break

THE Grand Hotel du Cap Ferrat, located between Nice and Monte Carlo, has a special short break package until next April. Prices start at £235 per person for any two nights, including airport transfer, dinner in the Michelin starred restaurant and complimentary green fees at a nearby golf course. Reservations: 0800 898852.

Caledonian fling

EDINBURGH'S five-star Caledonian Hotel has two traditional Hogmanay accommodation and dinner packages available, priced at £185 and £205 per person, which include Scottish dancing and a piper at midnight. The price includes dinner, accommodation and breakfast. Details: 0131-459 9988.

Wizard deal

LESS traditional is the Wizard of Oz-themed new year celebration at Billesley Manor, Warwickshire. Prices start at £295 per person for two nights accommodation and a dinner located in the Emerald City. Details: 01789 279955.

Private view

THE Hotel Breidenbacher Hof in Düsseldorf is offering tickets and a privately guided tour to the Egon Schiele Exhibition which opens today in the city and is the first time his collection of Austrian art is being shown in its entirety. Rates start at DM275 per person per night. Reservations through leading Hotels of the World: 0800 181123.

Irish flavour

THE Copthorne Tara Hotel in Kensington, London, has reopened its Dublin bar with live Irish music. Details: 0171-937 7211.

A Special Announcement

Due to variable flight loadings during January and early February we are able to present a number of arrangements at a fraction of the normal tariff for those that have the flexibility of travelling at rather short notice. However, we should warn would be travellers that these offers are very popular and those that were offered during November sold within days of being announced, so early telephone reservations are essential.

THE TAJ MAHAL from £295

Direct, fly from £295.00. Fly direct to Agra and the Taj Mahal for a week at a 3-star hotel with full facilities on a room and breakfast basis. Optional excursions are available to Old and New Delhi, Jaipur, Sikandra, the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri, as well as the Taj Mahal itself. Agra is the ideal place to both explore and relax and to escape a grey British winter.

Dates of Operation & Prices
January 9, 16, 23 £295.00 and February 6, 13 £315.00
Special Half Term Dept. February 20, 27 £315.00
Single supplement £50.00

COSTA RICA WANDERER from £395

7 nights from £395. Costa Rica in being so compact and varied is the ideal location in which to tour and relax. The Wanderer programme concept is simple: it includes international flights to and from San Jose, one night's pre-booked accommodation to be followed by a series of 6 accommodation vouchers that can be redeemed at a variety of hotels and lodges throughout the country. Car hire can



be obtained for approximately $US300 per week thus making it an ideal arrangement for those that wish to take advantage of our organisation yet free to roam.

Dates of Operation & Prices
January 11, 18, 25 £395.00
and February 1 £415.00
Single supplement £64.00

LAKE KARIBA from £395

7 nights on the shores of Lake Kariba from £395.00: At the 3-star Kariba Breezes Hotel. This arrangement includes international flights and transfers to Lake Kariba for 7 nights on a room and breakfast basis. The Kariba Breezes Hotel has full facilities including swimming pool and a lovely view over looking the lake. During your stay you may make optional visits to the various game parks, Victoria Falls, and of course a cruise on the lake to view the remarkable wildlife. Lake Kariba is a lovely spot to relax and explore.

Dates of Operation & Prices
January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 £395.00 and February 6, 13 £415.00. Single supplement £50.00

All arrangements exclude travel insurance, airport taxes and visas if necessary (visas are not required for Costa Rica or Lake Kariba for EC nationals).

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Legoland v Alton Towers

By Steve Keenan

LEGOLAND will undercut its theme park rival Alton Towers when it opens next year. Set in the new Windsor park, it opens on March 29, and will charge £15 for adults and £12 for children. The park is also offering £1 off for tickets booked in advance.

Alton Towers, Britain's biggest theme park, which closes during winter months, will be charging adults £17 and children £13 for next year — with a further 50p peak premium.

Legoland expects 1.4 million visitors in its first season, which finishes at the end of October. Latest figures for Britain's pay-for-parks show that in 1994 Alton Towers attracted 3.01 million visitors, Chessington World of Adventures 1.62 million and Thorpe Park 1.23 million.

But Chris Dobson, Legoland's marketing manager, insists Windsor park will not be in direct competition with other theme parks. "We are a different market, a different product," he says. "We are a family theme park without white-knuckle rides, but with a lot of things for children aged two and upwards."



From Windsor Great Park to Windsor Legoland park

Legoland will feature seven different areas, including the Duplo Gardens, Wild Woods with pirates and a castle, Miniland and Driving School. Family members of the Lego Club will be invited to two preview days on March 16 and 17, at £10 a head for either an adult or child.

French cut hotel prices

THERE is plenty of room in French hotels this Christmas and new year. In the wake of the French railway workers' decision to return to work, hotels are taking desperate measures to find more guests, such as cutting room prices, *Rachael Jolley writes*.

Normally, hotels are almost full in November and December, but Jerome Lautier, of the hotel representation company Utell, does not believe that the hotel trade can pick up for the last week of the year.

A spokesman for Eurostar said that train services have begun to get back to normal this week. Eurostar, he said, had lost thousands of passengers during the strike and there was still confusion about travelling to France. He emphasised that trains to Paris and Brussels were now running.

Queen's Bench Division | Law Report December 21 1995 | Chancery Division

Council cannot pay interest

Regina v Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough Council, Ex parte Brandt

Before Mr Justice Dyson

[Judgment December 15]

A local authority had no power to pay or to provide for the payment of interest on housing benefit.

Mr Justice Dyson so stated in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judicial review by Nicholas Brandt of the refusal by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea dated November 10, 1994 of his application for the transfer of his housing benefit into some form of interest bearing account.

Mr Brandt was in dispute with his landlord. Pending the outcome of legal proceedings in which the landlord claimed possession and mesne profits with interest, the local authority lawfully withheld paying Mr Brandt's housing benefit to his landlord. Mr Brandt requested the authority to place the moneys in an interest bearing account to assist should the court subsequently award interest on the sum claimed by his landlord.

Mr Jan Luba for Mr Brandt; Mr James Findlay for the local authority.

MR JUSTICE DYSON said that there was no authority on the point. It was one of considerable importance to local authorities responsible for the administration of housing benefit schemes.

At the heart of the application was section 111(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It was common ground that the functions of a local authority were those identified in *Hazell v Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council* ([1992] 2 AC 1, 29F).

Was payment of interest prohibited by the legislation governing the administration of housing benefit schemes?

If it was prohibited, then section 111(1) could not avail Mr Brandt. There was no express provision. In his Lordship's view, however, there was an implied prohibition.

Section 5(1) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 and the regulations made thereunder showed that Parliament intended to define the powers of the authority in relation to the administration of schemes with considerable precision. It was significant that nowhere in those detailed provisions was there any reference to interest.

His Lordship accepted that the legislature could not have intended to specify every aspect of the way in which housing benefit was administered. Thus, quite apart from section 111(1) of the 1972 Act, the authority impliedly had the power to maintain and operate banking arrangements for payment out of benefit, and do other administrative acts of the kind mentioned by Mr Luba: see *Attorney-General v Smethwick Corporation* ([1932] 1 Ch 563).

The fact that the statutory provisions governing the administration of housing benefit schemes were very detailed was not of itself sufficient to exclude the implied power to do everything that could fairly be regarded as incidental to or consequential upon the powers expressly conferred by statute.

But it seemed to his Lordship that the payment of sums of money to or on behalf of claimants stood on an altogether different footing from the performance of administrative acts of the kind instanced by Mr Luba.

The regulations dealt specifically and in detail with payments to claimants. It was quite clear that it was only payment of benefit that could be made.

Administrative acts such as those mentioned by Mr Luba would undoubtedly have been regarded at common law as incidental to the powers and duties conferred by the benefit legislation.

In his Lordship's judgment, payment of interest on retained payments would not have been so regarded. The special status of the authority's power to make payments was underlined by section 135 and 137 of the 1992 Act and the authority's evidence that retention of moneys into a special account had potentially considerable adverse financial consequences.

The power was not impliedly authorised by the Act. Accordingly, even if the exercise of the power did otherwise fall within section 111(1) of the 1972 Act, it would be ultra vires the authority to exercise it, because that subsection was subject to the housing benefit legislation.

The relevant function of the purposes of the application of the section 111(1) of the 1972 Act was the function of administering a housing benefit scheme in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions. They were concerned with the payment of housing benefit in the form of rent allowances and not with the payment of anything else.

The purpose underlying housing benefit schemes so administered was undoubtedly to ensure that the poorest members of the community did not fall into debt with their landlords.

That, however, was quite different from saying that the relevant function for the purposes of section 111(1) was doing whatever was necessary to prevent claimants from becoming indebted to their landlords and in consequence facing the threat of eviction.

The question, therefore, was whether payment of interest on benefit withheld facilitated or was conducive or incidental to the payment of housing benefit in the form of rent allowances. In his Lordship's judgment, the answer was clearly "No".

Payment of interest did not assist the payment of benefit. It might assist the claimant if a certain contingency arose, namely that it was determined by a court or agreed between landlord and tenant that interest should be paid to the landlord on the arrears of rent.

Section 111(1) did not come into play unless the power facilitated or was conducive or incidental to the discharge of the function. It was insufficient to show that the power might benefit the claimant for whose benefit the function was discharged.

Mr Luba advanced a particular argument based on regulation 95(1) of the Housing Benefits (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1971). An authority which had decided it was in the overriding interest of the claimant not to make direct payment to the landlord was under a duty to withhold payment and retain it until it was no longer in the overriding interest of the claimant not to make the payment.

Mr Luba submitted that the money must be retained somewhere and it must be retained in a manner and place that advanced rather than harmed the claimant's overriding interest, that is, an interest bearing account. His Lordship accepted that premise but not the conclusion.

First, his Lordship could not accept that the words "shall be retained by the authority" in regulation 95(3) meant anything more than that the money shall be withheld and not paid. They did not contemplate that the money would necessarily be in the hands of the authority at the time of the withholding, still less that it would be in some identifiable and designated account.

Second, and in any event, it did not follow from the fact that the authority was expressly required to have regard to the claimant's overriding interest when the question of direct payment to his landlord arose, that it was, impliedly, required to have regard to the interest of the claimant when deciding whether, and if so where and on what terms, to set aside a sum equivalent to the payment withheld.

His Lordship concluded therefore that section 111(1) did not avail Mr Brandt.

The award of statutory interest was in the discretion of the court. In a case where rent was tendered to a landlord by a tenant who was in receipt of benefit, and where as a result benefit was withheld, and the tenant did not have the means to pay interest on the arrears, his Lordship would be surprised if a court would grant statutory interest to the landlord in the resultant proceedings. As between landlord and tenant, it would surely be unjust to order payment of interest.

Solicitors: Wainwright & Cummins; Mr Alun Phillips, Kensington.

Disqualification of directors

Practice Direction (Companies Court: Directors' disqualification)

Where disqualification proceedings against a director of a company could be settled by agreement between the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry or the Official Receiver and the respondent director, insistence on proceedings being brought before the court resulted in unnecessary delay, a waste of court time and wasted costs. Accordingly amending legislation should be introduced to enable such results to be avoided.

The Vice-Chancellor so stated in an introductory note to a new Practice Direction.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said the number of applications for a disqualification order of an unfit company director under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 had steadily grown and had undergone a surge in the last 12 months.

Disqualification orders should come into force at the earliest moment both in the public interest and so that respondent directors should have the uncertainty as to their position resolved as soon as possible. Therefore delay in the processing of disqualification applications was a matter of legitimate concern.

The overall effect of the new direction would be to give the court greater control over the conduct of those proceedings so as to enable them to be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.

It addressed in particular the problem of cases which were not set down for trial where they ought to have been and cases where the parties had taken no steps to obtain a hearing date for a case that had been set down.

The new direction made adjustment also to the developing procedure, initiated by Mr Justice Ferris in *In re Cavecraft Construction Co Ltd* ([1994] 1 WLR 172) for enabling applications where there was no dispute about the material facts and no dispute about the appropriate period of disqualification to be dealt with in a summary fashion. That procedure would, he hoped, enable the court to dispose of these applications more speedily than had hitherto been possible.

His Lordship did question, however, the need for there to be a court hearing at all in cases where the secretary of state, or the Official Receiver, and the respondent director were in agreement as to the essential facts and as to the length of the appropriate disqualification period. Court time should be reserved for cases where there was a dispute between the parties which had to be resolved.

Under the 1986 Act there was no alternative but for all applications for disqualification, no matter what state of agreement there might be between the parties, to be processed through the court machinery. That was unnecessary and avoidable.

His Lordship would recommend, accordingly, that the secretary of state give consideration to the possibility of introducing amending legislation under which an agreement between a director and the secretary of state or the Official Receiver to the disqualification period to be applied to the director be given the same effect as a court order imposing the disqualification period.

If the director was willing to bar himself from acting as a director for a period that the secretary of state regarded as being sufficient to protect the public interest, he did not see why time and money should be expended by insistence on bringing the case before the court.

For all those reasons his Lordship recommended amending legislation. For the present, he handed down the new Practice Direction in which he said:

1 This Practice Direction is to be read in conjunction with the Insolvent Companies (Disqualification of Unfit Directors) Proceedings Rules (SI 1987 No 2023) and the Chancery Guide (*The Supreme Court Practice 1995* (volume 2, paragraphs 874 to 899)). The definitions in the 1987 Rules applied in this Practice Direction.

2 When the summons (which had to be an originating summons) was issued, the applicant would be given a date for the first hearing of the summons. The rules provide that that date was to be not less than eight weeks from the date of issue of the summons.

The rules further provided that evidence in support of a summons would be filed when the application was issued and that evidence in answer and in reply would be filed within 28 days of service of the summons and 14 days from receipt of the evidence in answer respectively.

That timetable could only be extended by consent or with the leave of the court. All evidence should be filed before the first hearing of the summons.

First hearing of the summons

3 All interlocutory directions should be sought at the first hearing of the summons so that the application could be determined at the earliest possible date. The parties should take all such steps as they respectively could to avoid successive directions hearings.

4 If at the first hearing the registrar adjourned the case for further consideration under rule 7(4), he would so far as possible give all the directions for trial including where rule 7(4) applied a direction as to whether the matter was to be heard by a judge or a registrar. That direction might at any time be varied by the court either on application or of its own motion. If the court varied the direction in the absence of all the parties, notice would be given to the parties.

Setting down for trial

5(a) At the appropriate stage the registrar would direct the applicant to set the case down for trial within such period (usually five days) as he might order. The parties could not extend that period by agreement. The applicant had to give notice to the respondent(s) when he had set the case down.

(b) If the case was to be heard by a judge, the case would be entered in the judges' Companies List.

(c) If the case was not set down for trial within the period specified by the registrar, it could be listed before the court to show cause why it should not be struck out.

Fixing a date for trial

6(a) Within 15 working days of setting down (or such other period as the court might allow) the parties would together attend:

(i) if the case was to be heard by a registrar, at Room 405, Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice or (ii) if the case was to be heard by a judge, before the Chancery Clerk of the Lists in either case to fix a date for trial.

For that purpose they had to produce to the Chief Clerk or the Chancery Clerk of the Lists a written estimate of the length of the trial signed by the advocates for all the parties.

(b) The parties could not by agreement extend the period for attendance to fix a trial date. In the event of non-compliance with paragraph (a) above, the court would fix a date for trial and give notice of the date to the parties.

Estimates of length

7(a) If a party did not provide an estimate of the length of trial to the court when required to do so, the court could act on the estimate of the other party.

(b) As stated in section 5.2 of the Chancery Guide, the parties had to inform the court immediately of any material change in an estimate.

Pretrial review (PTR)

8 In all cases where the hearing is estimated to take 10 days or more and in any other case where the court so directed a PTR would be held by a registrar or if the case was to be heard by a judge by a judge in chambers.

If the PTR was to be heard by a registrar, the date for the hearing of the PTR would be fixed at a hearing of the summons. If the PTR was to be heard by a judge the applicant had to issue a separate summons for a PTR, and it was the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that a hearing date for a PTR was obtained so that the PTR was held between eight and four weeks before the trial date.

If, where the PTR was to be heard by a judge, the applicant failed to issue a summons for a PTR, or to obtain a hearing date for the summons, the case could be listed by the Chancery Clerk of the Lists (on notice to the parties) for a PTR.

9 The provisions of section 3.10(3) to (7) of the Chancery Guide applied to PTRs in disqualification cases whether the PTR was to be heard by a judge or a registrar.

The trial

10 Skeleton arguments should be prepared by all the parties in all but the simplest cases whether the case was to be heard by a registrar or a judge. They should comply with the guidelines in appendix 3 to the Chancery Guide.

11 The advocate for the applicant should also in all but the simplest cases provide: (a) a chronology, (b) a dramatis personae, (c) in respect of each respondent, a list of the references to the relevant evidence for each matter relied upon as constituting unfitness.

12 The documents mentioned in paragraphs 10 and 11 above must be delivered to the court not less than two clear days before the day fixed for the hearing. If the case was to be heard by a judge but the name of the judge was not known, or the judge was a deputy judge, those documents must be delivered to the Chancery Clerk of the Lists.

If the name of the judge, other than a deputy judge, was known, those documents had to be delivered to the judge's clerk. If the case was to be heard by a registrar, the documents had to be delivered to Room 405, Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice. Copies must be provided to the other party so far as possible when they were delivered to the court.

13 Section 5.3 of the Chancery Guide applied to bundles of documents for use at the trial.

Summary Procedure

14 If parties decided to make an application under the procedure adopted in *Re Carecraft Construction Co Ltd* ([1994] 1 WLR 172), they should inform the court immediately and obtain a date for the hearing of the application.

15 Whenever a *Carecraft* application was made, the applicant must:

(a) except in simple cases where the circumstances did not merit it or when the court otherwise directed, submit a written statement containing in respect of each respondent any material facts which (for the purposes of the application) were either agreed or not opposed (by either party); and

(b) specify in the written statement (or, if none, a separate document) the period of disqualification which the parties would invite the court to order or the bracket (that is, 2-5 years; 6-10 years; 11-15 years) into which they would submit that the case fell.

16 Paragraph 12 of the above applied to the documents mentioned in paragraph 15 above unless the court otherwise directed.

Hearings outside London

17 Where application for a disqualification order was made by summons issued in the Chancery District Registries in Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester or Newcastle this Practice Direction shall apply with the following modifications:

(a) Upon the issue of the summons the court would endorse it with the date and time for the first hearing before a district judge. The powers exercisable by a registrar under this Practice Direction shall be exercisable by a district judge.

(b) If the district judge, either at the first hearing or at any adjourned hearing before him, directed that the summons was to be heard by a High Court judge or by an authorised circuit judge he would direct that the case be entered forthwith in the list for hearing by that judge and the court would allocate (i) a date for the hearing of the trial by that judge and (ii) unless the district judge directed otherwise a date for the hearing of a PTR by the trial judge.

18 The documents mentioned in paragraphs 10, 11, and 15 had to must be delivered to the appropriate court, at the address given below, not less than two clear days before the day fixed for the hearing. Copies had to be provided to the other party so far as possible when they were delivered to the court. Addresses for the delivery of documents were:

Birmingham: The Chancery Listing Officer, The District Registry of the Chancery Division of the High Court, 33 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6DS.

Bristol: The Chancery Listing Officer, The District Registry of the Chancery Division of the High Court, 3rd Floor, Greyfriars, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2NR.

Cardiff: The Chancery Listing Officer, The District Registry of the Chancery Division of the High Court, 1st Floor, 2 Park Street, Cardiff CF1 1NR.

Leeds: The Chancery Listing Officer, The District Registry of the Chancery Division of the High Court, Leeds Combined Court Centre, The Court House, 1 Oxford Row, Leeds LS1 3BG.

Liverpool and Manchester: The Chancery Listing Officer, The District Registry of the Chancery Division of the High Court, Manchester Courts of Justice, Crown Square, Manchester M60 9DJ.

Newcastle: The Chancery Listing Officer, The District Registry of the Chancery Division of the High Court, The Law Courts, Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3LA.

Commencement

19 This Practice Direction would come into force on January 1, 1996.

● **The Times Law Report will appear from time to time through the Legal Christmas Vacation, including Boxing Day.**

No rollover relief for part-disposal

Watton (Inspector of Taxes) v Tippett

Before Sir John Vinelott

[Judgment December 7]

Proceeds from the disposal of part of business premises could not be treated as having been applied in acquiring the other part of those premises for the purposes of rollover tax relief for business assets.

Sir John Vinelott, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division, so held when allowing an appeal by the Crown from the decision of a deputy special commissioner, Mr P. M. F. Horsfield, QC, that the taxpayer, Mr E. H. Tippett, was entitled to rollover relief in respect of the chargeable gain arising on his disposal of a part of an industrial building at Bromyard Road, Worcester.

Section 115 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979, provided for the relief: "(1) If the consideration which a person carrying on a trade obtains for the disposal of, or of an interest in, assets (in this section referred to as 'the old assets') . . . is applied by him in acquiring other assets, or an interest in other assets, (in this section referred to as 'the new assets'). . ."

By section 115(3) the section applied if the acquisition of the new assets took place "in the period beginning twelve months before and ending three years after the disposal of" the old assets.

Mr Launcelot Henderson, QC, for the Crown; Mr Richard Bramwell, QC, for the taxpayer.

HIS LORDSHIP said that in 1988 the taxpayer, for the purposes of his trade, purchased land and buildings known as Unit 1, Everoak Industrial Estate, for £290,000. In 1989, due to funding difficulties, the taxpayer realised the gain by selling part of the premises, Unit 1A, for some £290,000. The purchase of the whole of Unit 1 took place within the 12-month period before the sale of Unit 1A so as to comply with section 115(3).

The commissioner stated the question as being whether the gain on the disposal of Unit 1A could attract relief under section 115(1) of the 1979 Act "as regards the residue of expenditure attributable to the part retained given that the original and earlier acquisition was of but a single asset".

Upholding the taxpayer's case, the commissioner said that section 115 operated only when Unit 1A had been sold and the taxpayer had made a claim "as respects the consideration" for the sale.

That being so, he said, the point of time at which it was appropriate to consider whether there were separate and identifiable new assets and old assets was after and not before the disposal of Unit 1A. He concluded that Unit 1A was to be treated as the old assets and the unsold balance of the premises as the new assets for the purposes of section 115(1).

But the commissioner had not been referred to, and had not had in mind, sections 19(2) (disposal of assets) and 35(1) and (2) (part disposals). Thereunder a part disposal of an asset was to be treated as a disposal of the asset and not a disposal of part of the asset.

A part disposal might or might not involve a disposal of a severable part of an asset. So, for example, the grant of a lease of a house was a part disposal of the house but not a disposal of part of the house. The importance of that distinction was underlined by the provisions for apportioning sums attributable to the assets in section 35.

The sale of Unit 1A was not a disposal of part of Unit 1 but a part disposal of it. It could not be said therefore that within the meaning of section 115(1) Unit 1A constituted "old assets" as distinct from any other assets.

Moreover, it could not be said that any quantifiable part of the consideration for the disposal of Unit 1A was "applied" in the acquisition of the retained part of Unit 1, whatever meaning was given to the word "applied".

The consideration paid for Unit 1 could not be severed and treated as paid in part for Unit 1A and in part for the retained part of Unit 1. The description in section 115(1) of assets as being "old" or "new" was functional and not temporal.

Different considerations might apply in the case of two properties acquired under the same contract and at a time when they were not physically separated provided they could be treated as separate assets and the consideration could be apportioned between them at the time of the sale. That case could be considered if and when it arose.

The insuperable difficulty facing the taxpayer in the instant case was that Unit 1 was acquired as a single asset and for an unapportioned consideration.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Harfield Pickering, Redditch.

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NEWS

Top CPS staff to be axed

■ Almost a third of the Crown Prosecution Service's most senior lawyers are to go in a bureaucratic shake-up aimed at improving its performance. A new inspectorate is also to be created to monitor the organisation's work.

The changes are recommended in a Whitehall review calling for 18 senior posts — all held by lawyers — to be scrapped. That would cut the staff at the top of the service to 50 ..... **Page 1**

Record 27 years for burglar

■ A violent burglar who gloried in terrorising his wealthy victims was jailed for a record 27 years after being told by the judge that his crimes were far worse than robberies of banks and building societies. As he was sentenced to the longest term of imprisonment ever passed for domestic break-ins, Keith Bramble reeled backwards in the dock ..... **Page 1**

Tory fish wars

The Tory Right turned its fire on Kenneth Clarke after the Government's defeat over the European fisheries policy. Leading figures threatened further mayhem unless John Major reined in his pro-European Chancellor.. **Pages 1, 9**

Palace talks

The Prime Minister spent an hour at Kensington Palace in talks with the Princess of Wales on her public role ..... **Page 1**

Wife killer jailed

Scheming husband Gordon Wardell was jailed for life for the murder of his wife Carol, a building society manager.... **Pages 1, 3**

Girl's plunge inquiry

An investigation began into why a teenage girl who survived a fall under a train was released from hospital only to die after plunging from the fourth floor of a hotel the next night ..... **Pages 1, 5**

Major in Ireland

John Major will today visit Belfast and Dublin after a dispute between the British and Irish Governments over state aid for the Irish steel industry was settled ..... **Page 2**

Women at work

Women working in the City of London are still judged by their looks with male colleagues using derisory terms to rank them according to their sexual potential ..... **Page 6**

Hospice scratchcard

The hospice movement is launching a scratchcard game with a top prize of £100,000 and hopes to raise £1 million ..... **Page 8**

Assassin guard

In an attempt to avert any more parallels with the assassination of President Kennedy, the self-confessed killer of Yitzhak Rabin is in solitary confinement ..... **Page 10**

Troops move in

The inhabitants of Krupa, a Serb-held town 17 miles south of Banja Luka, gathered by the roadside to watch the British troops arrive ..... **Page 11**

Tin shack mayor

An unemployed Communist living in a tin shack who washes in a bucket, and reads by candlelight, is now mayor of a town synonymous with Eugene Terre'Blanche and his Afrikaner Resistance Movement ..... **Page 12**

Whitewater crisis

The Senate's chief Whitewater investigator rebuffed eleventh-hour White House efforts to forestall a Senate vote on a court order to obtain subpoenaed presidential documents ..... **Page 14**

French summit

Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, will today host a high-profile labour summit designed to find ways of reviving an economy battered by the three-week general strike ..... **Page 15**

Dinosaurs, warm in heart and blood

■ Dinosaurs were devoted parents that sat on their eggs as carefully as any modern bird, a find in Mongolia has shown. A well-preserved skeleton of a dinosaur brooding on at least 15 carefully arranged eggs confirms the contention that dinosaurs took care of their young. It also suggests that they were warm-blooded ..... **Page 8**

RUSSELL BOYCE



A rival from the Chinese State Circus dances alongside a Landseer lion in Trafalgar Square. The circus is in London for a month

BUSINESS

Bank of England: Brian Quinn, the executive director responsible for supervision, is to retire in February. Mr Quinn was much criticised in the wake of the collapse of Barings ..... **Page 25**

Hanson: The Anglo-American conglomerate raised £1.5 billion by selling two subsidiaries..... **Page 25**

Hotels sale: Forte sold its Travelodge budget hotel chain in the US for £114 million but said it did not expect to make any other significant disposals in the next few weeks. Forte is fighting off a bid from Granada ..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 36.8 to 3613.7. Sterling's index was unchanged at 82.9 after a fall from $1.5435 to $1.5380 but a rise from DM2.2160 to DM2.2196 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Cricket: The England tour team failed to capitalise on a splendid start, allowing a South African Students XI to recover from 23 for five to 253 for six ..... **Page 48**

Football: There was confusion and bitterness as Jack Charlton's highly-successful reign as manager of Ireland seemed about to end. He had wanted to wait until the new year to make a decision.... **Page 48**

Rackets: Eton is assured of winning the elite senior singles event of the public schools championship for the first time in a quarter of a century ..... **Page 46**

Racing: The Irish are pinning their hopes on Merry Gale bringing them their first win in 20 years in the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park ..... **Page 43**

ARTS

Magic in the closet: Released in time for the Christmas holidays, *The Indian in the Cupboard* is a charming tale of a boy who finds a magic friend in a magic cupboard. Also Jim Carrey in *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls* ..... **Page 33**

Tower Bridge opera: The Royal Opera House's temporary home, at Tower Bridge, will be the first steel opera house and will have the largest stage in London ..... **Page 35**

Debut in Paris: A 20-year-old English conductor, Daniel Harding, made a fine impression when he stood in for Sir Simon Rattle at short notice in Paris ..... **Page 33**

Only the lonely: Jonathan Harvey's funny but cruel portrait of sad singles, *Rupert Street Lonely Hearts Club*, in the West End..... **Page 35**

Christmas message: While the Queen is speaking to most of us, Channel 4 will have Brigitte Bardot on animal suffering ..... **Page 17**

Sleepless in Britain: Poor quality sleep can cause drowsiness but the cures can be worse: the effects of sleep-inducing medicines.. **Page 16**

Steady drinking: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the conclusions that while daily moderate drinking may stave off one type of stroke, binge drinking is bad for all strokes ... **Page 16**

Sun, sea and turkey: The popular destinations for Christmas are Tenerife, Spain and Florida...**Page 22**

Dickens in distress: Peter Ackroyd on mid-life crisis; Ian McIntyre on Arthur Conan Doyle; Philip Howard on William Douglas-Home; Fiona Pitt-Kethley on Robert Nye..... **Pages 36, 37**

It is apparent that the President doesn't actually want a balanced budget. Once it has been achieved it will be either because Mr Clinton was bypassed, or because he was dragged kicking and screaming
— Washington Times

It is to China's credit that it seems to be developing along a less protectionist path than Japan did
— Wall Street Journal



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **STARRING ROLE**
Valerie Grove meets Shelley von Strunckel (left), a star among astrologers

■ **CHRISTMAS BOX**
Two Sony Widescreen television sets to be won in our Twelve Days of Christmas competitions

Preview: A revolutionary icon under revisionist scrutiny: *Che Guevara* (Channel 4, 9pm) **Review:** Matthew Bond on documentaries reverent and mocking ..... **Page 47**

Soldiers in the snow

Never has it been more true than in Bosnia that soldiers are left to deal with the wars which politicians have made ..... **Page 19**

New spies for old

Tom King and his colleagues on the Commons Intelligence and Security Committee should feel free to ask hard questions and to set benchmarks by which they will judge the success or failure of using MI5 to combat crime ..... **Page 19**

Dreaming of . . .

This is the time of the year when no one cares if it is the wrong sort of snow: all that matters is that it falls, gently, from the sky ..... **Page 19**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

It begins to look as though the German political class has despaired of Britain and now believes that the sort of Europe they want to build can only be created if Britain leaves the EU ..... **Page 18**

ROGER SCRUTON

In the name of human rights the European Court has issued a racist judgment. Such judgments follow inevitably from attributing rights to groups ..... **Page 18**

PETER RIDDELL

Conservative MPs are rallying round Mr Ashby because if he sinks, they will all suffer. In the words of a senior Tory, they will try to keep him "buoyant" ..... **Page 18**

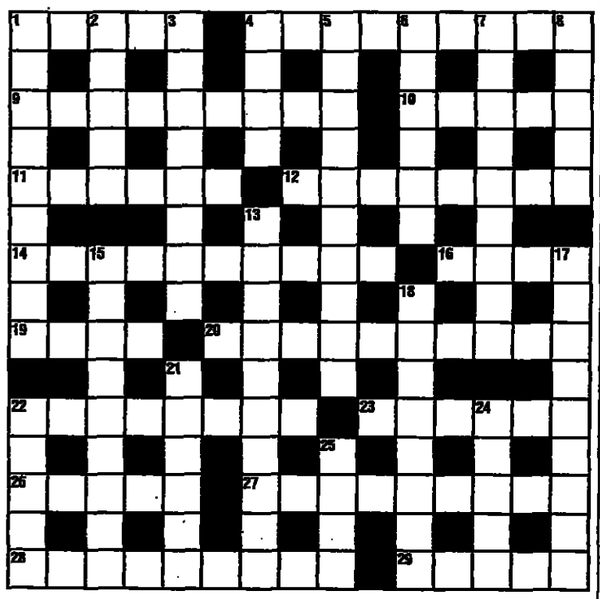
JOHN BRYANT

Milo is said to have carried a four-year-old bull round the stadium at Olympia and then to have eaten it within the day ..... **Page 46**

Viscount Watkinson, former Conservative Cabinet Minister; **Vitaly Savitsky**, biologist and politician; **Richard Shaw**, chairman of Lowndes Lambert; Alan Hunter, astronomer ..... **Page 21**

Richard Branson on the Oflot ruling; fishing revolt; daylight saving; ramblers and free access to private land ..... **Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,044



ACROSS

1 Goes over photographs in retirement (5).
4 Prohibition leads to dry, empty, taverns, without liquor suppliers (9).
9 Monarch detained by force in a republic (9).
10 State police not out of the woods here (5).
11 Silent torture for recruit (6).
12 Fire in Geneva, say (8).
14 Is deal that succeeds more than fair? (5-5).
16 Formerly seen in concert (4).
19 Brave English filly hemmed in by outsiders in Derby (4).
20 One determined to ruin the party turns left (10).
22 Unorthodox as a bishop, travelling in search of adventure (8).
23 Vacation course that's useful if one wants a rise (6).
26 Publication for children (5).
27 Conservatives' traditional discipline (3,6).
28 The only one to spill the beans twice! (9).
29 A bit sad when Jack says "goodbye" — drunk or sober (5).

DOWN

1 Agents had arranged for someone to move flats (5-4).
2 Virtuous person as guardian, perhaps (5).
3 Trade unionist, elected to intervene on the left (8).
4 Foreign house journal, last to come out (4).
5 Expert transplantation? (5,5).
6 Directions to make ready to surround city (6).
7 Modern language translation of ten operas (9).
8 Free lunch, say, for nurse (5).
13 Excellent excuse for finishing up at the highest level (7,3).
15 Bad temper when business is slack (3-6).
17 Did fish under net, wriggling, become this? (9).
18 City church's spirits (8).
21 Old editor finally gets what's been produced by boring author (6).
22 A royal, perhaps, turning up under a pseudonym (5).
24 Player taking a bow for part in *Twelfth Night* (5).
25 God's love — before Babel (4).

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W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
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N Ireland	727

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Midlands	740
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North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Jersey, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Drumalbin, Strathclyde, -2C (28F); highest rainfall: Minehead, Somerset, 1.57in; highest sunshine: Leuchars, Fife, 6.0hr.

Sun rises 8.03am.
Sun sets 15.53pm.



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FORECAST

☐ **General:** northern, central and eastern England will start frosty. There will be snow over central southern and southeast England, the south Midlands and North Wales at first; it will spread to most of East Anglia, the north Midlands and northwest England by midday, with rain or drizzle following. By evening, the snow will be over northernmost England.

Northern Ireland will be snowy at first, with a couple of inches over the hills. The snow will turn to rain in the afternoon.

Scotland will be fine and frosty at first, with snow towards the evening over southern and central districts.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, W Midlands:** sleet or snow, soon turning to rain or drizzle. Wind southeasterly, light or moderate. Milder later. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, E, NW, Central N England, N Wales, N Ireland:** soon snowy; a couple of inches settling in places. Rain or drizzle later. Wind southeasterly, light or moderate. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** rain or drizzle at times. Becoming misty. Wind southeast to southerly, light or moderate. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Lake District, IoM, NE England, Borders, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** fine, frosty start. Snow spreading from southwest by mid-afternoon, turning to rain during evening. Wind southeasterly, light. Max 1C (34F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** bright and frosty. Snow by evening. Wind east to southeasterly, light. Max 0C (32F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** bright or sunny, frosty. Wind easterly, light. Max 0C (32F).

☐ **Outlook:** milder for a time, with rain. Turning wintry from north on Saturday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 6 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

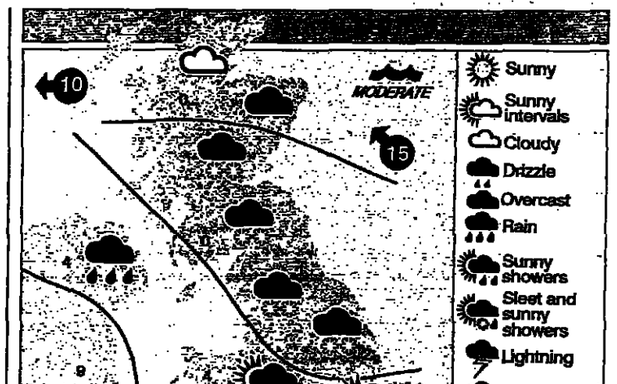
	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.9	0.05	0	32	sn	Littlehmptn	-	0.47	5	41	r
Anglesey	4.6	0.20	4	39	s	Liverpool	5.2	0.06	3	37	s
Aspatria	3.7	-	-1	30	s	London	1.4	1.12	5	41	sh
Aviemore	2.6	-	-2	28	s	Lowestoft	2.2	0.49	5	41	sh
Belfast	X					Manchester	5.3	0.19	3	37	s
Birmingham	3.9	0.68	3	37	b	Margate	-	0.95	6	43	r
Bognor R	-	0.48	5	41	r	Minehead	-	1.57	4	39	r
Boumem'th	-	0.33	5	41	r	Morecambe	4.0	-	3	37	s
Bristol	-	1.07	5	41	sn	Newcastle	3.1	0.02	2	36	s
Buxton	5.4	0.30	0	32	s	Newquay	-	0.18	11	52	c
Cardiff	-	0.69	4	39	sl	Norwich	2.1	0.40	6	43	s
Clacton	0.9	1.31	5	41	c	Nottingham	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	3.3	1.13	4	39	s
Colwyn Bay	4.4	0.31	3	37	s	Penzance	-	0.18	11	52	d
Cromer	-	0.18	5	41	b	Plymouth	X				
Doncaster	X					Poole	-	0.36	5	41	d
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	0.36	4	39	s
Eastbourne	-	0.74	5	41	r	Ross-o-wye	1.5	1.24	4	39	c
Edinburgh	5.7	-	1	34	s	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	5.7	-	-1	30	s	Salcombe	X				
Exmouth	-	0.33	4	39	d	Sandown	-	0.27	5	41	r
Falmouth	-	0.19	12	54	d	Saumb Snd	-	0.82	4	39	c
Fishguard	3.6	1.07	5	41	b	Scarboro'	2.2	0.03	3	37	c
Folkestone	0.6	1.30	6	43	r	Shanklin	-	0.34	5	41	c
Glasgow	5.2	-	2	36	s	Shrewsbury	4.3	0.51	3	37	s
Guernsey	X					Skegness	2.0	0.13	5	41	b
Hastings	-	0.95	5	41	r	Southend	-	1.19	5	41	b
Hayling I.	-	0.35	5	41	r	Southport	5.0	-	5	41	s
Herne Bay	0.9	1.19	6	43	sn	Southsea	-	0.36	5	41	c
Hove	-	0.35	5	41	d	Stornoway	2.0	-	1	34	h
Hunstanton	2.0	0.19	5	41	b.	Swanage	-	0.44	5	41	r
Ilfracombe	X					Teignmouth	-	0.32	6	43	r
Isle of Man	4.4	-	2	36	s	Tenby	X				
Jersey	-	0.29	12	54	d	Tiree	0.3	-	3	37	sn
Kinloss	3.3	0.01	1	34	s	Torquay	-	0.59	8	43	d
Leeds	5.5	0.01	2	36	s	Tynemouth	0.2	-	1	34	c
Lerwick	-	0.53	-1	30	sn	Ventnor	-	0.47	5	41	r
Leuchars	6.0	-	1	34	s	Weymouth	-	0.32	5	41	d

ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	s	C'phagn	0	32	s	Majorca	17	63	s
Akrotiri	18	61	s	Dublin	3	37	s	Malaga	19	66	s
Aker'drta	19	66	f	Dubrovnik	10	50	s	Malta	17	63	s
Algiers	17	63	r	Faro	18	64	f	Malb'rne	14	57	r
Amst'dm	3	37	c	Florence	7	45	c	Mexico C	18	64	s
Athens	15	59	s	Frankfurt	1	34	r	Miami	29	84	c
B Aires	28	82	s	Funchal	20	68	c	Milan	5	41	f
Bahrain	17	63	r	Geneva	5	41	c	Montreal	-13	9	X
Bangkok	27	81	f	Gibraltar	17	63	c	Moscow	-14	7	f
Barbados	29	84	f	Helsinki	-10	14	sn	Munich	6	43	r
Barcelona	15	59	s	Hong K	20	68	f	N Delhi	20	68	s
Beirut	16	61	s	Innsbruck	3	37	f	N York	-3	27	sn
Belgrade	6	43	f	Istanbul	9	48	r	Nairobi	25	77	s
Berlin	1	34	c	Jeddah	27	81	f	Naples	15	59	s
Bermuda	19	66	t	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Nice	12	54	s
Biarritz	18	64	s	Karachi	27	81	s	Oslo	-4	25	s
Borde'x	12	54	c	L Angels	19	61	s	Paris	7	45	f
Brussels	2	36	c	L Palmas	22	72	f	Penang	5	43	s
Budapst	2	36	f	Le Touet	5	41	f	Perth	22	72	r
Cairo	17	63	s	Lisbon	16	61	c	Prague	1	34	sl
Cape Tn	24	75	f	Locarno	3	37	s	Reykjavik	-5	23	sn
Chicago	1	34	c	Luxembg	4	39	r	Rhodes	18	64	f
Cologne	0	32	sn	Luxor	23	73	s	Rio de J	27	81	f
Corfu	13	55	f	Madrid	10	50	c	Riyadh	12	54	c

Rome	12	54	s	Stockhlm	-10	14	s	Vienna	2	36	s
S Fr'isco	11	52	c	Strasb'rg	5	41	r	Warsaw	1	34	sn
S Paulo	26	79	c	Sydney	21	70	f	Wash'ton	1	34	r
Salzburg	3	37	f	Tangier	18	64	f	Wel'ngton	21	70	s
Santiago	28	84	s	Tel Aviv	18	64	s	Zurich	5	41	c
Seoul	4	39	c	Ténerife	23	73	s				
Sing'por	26	79	r	Tokyo	9	48	s				
St'kholm	-10	14	s	Toronto	-10	14	f				

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low V will drift northeast, with little change, and will absorb low W. High A will move away southeastwards. There will be little change to high G



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	0:30	7.07	0:48	7.25	Leith	1:12	5.59	1:38	5.66
Aberdeen	0:00	4.37	0:27	4.46	Liverpool	10:09	9.61	10:34	9.82
Avonmouth	6:04	13.27	6:30	13.49	Lowestoft	8:16	2.58	8:48	2.61
Belfast	9:56	3.47	10:20	3.55	Margate	11:04	4.75	11:31	4.76
Cardiff	6:03	11.51	6:26	11.61	Milford Haven	5:06	6.99	5:30	7.09
Devonport	4:41	5.42	5:05	5.41	Newquay	3:59	6.81	4:23	6.79
Dover	9:45	6.69	10:12	6.74	Oban	4:46	3.97	5:00	4.05
Dublin	10:20	4.22	10:58	4.27	Penzance	3:33	5.48	3:58	5.48
Falmouth	3:55	4.98	4:21	5.12	Portland	5:43	2.15	6:07	2.05
Glasgow	--	--	0:07	4.45	Portsmouth	10:15	4.89	10:44	4.81
Harwich	10:46	4.01	11:15	4.05	Shoreham	10:09	6.37	10:38	6.33
Holyhead	9:14	5.75	9:39	5.78	Southampton	9:42	4.71	10:08	4.58
Hull	5:07	7.32	5:33	7.43	Tees	2:20	5.35	2:52	5.48
Ilfracombe	4:49	9.37	5:12	9.46	Wilton-on-Nze	10:42	4.23	11:09	4.31
King's Lynn	5:08	6.80	5:31	6.79					

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BRITAIN

Sun rises: 8.04 am
Sun sets: 3.53 pm
Moon sets: 3.49 pm
Moon rises: 6.52

London 3.53 pm to 8.04 am
Bristol 4.03 pm to 8.14 am
Edinburgh 3.40 pm to 8.42 am
Manchester 3.51 pm to 8.23 am
Penzance 4.22 pm to 8.19 am

New Moon tomorrow

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Times Two Crossword, page 48

هكذا من الاصل



ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

How I fared with my 1995 set of predictions



BOOKS 36,37

Elementary clues to the mind behind Holmes



SPORT 43-48

Cricket visionary still seeking to spread the word

25

APPOINTMENTS APPEAR ON PAGES 38-42

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — THURSDAY DECEMBER 21 1995

Lang 'misled' Parliament over funding of failed firm

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, has been accused of giving "seriously misleading" answers to a Labour MP. The MP had tabled a series of Parliamentary questions on how £850,000 of taxpayers' money was given to a failed West Country computer firm when the Department was aware that one of the directors had a troubled financial background.

Rom Data Corporation, of Falmouth, which is being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office and Devon and Cornwall police, was given the DTI regional assistance grant even though John Dawson, a former Conservative city councillor in Bath, has a history of bad debts in Britain and the Caribbean. Mr Dawson left the UK in the early 1980s, before a bankruptcy hearing into the collapse of John Dawson Motor (Holdings), with business and personal debts of nearly £2 million. Another Rom Data director, Brad Shephard, an American, was declared bankrupt at Truro Crown and County Court in October this year.

This week, the Trade Department told David Jamieson, Labour MP for Plymouth Devonport, that an internal inquiry had shown that officials responsible for appraising Rom Data's grant application "were not aware that Mr John Dawson, who was involved with the Rom Data Corporation Ltd, was a discharged bankrupt even though that information was held by the Insolvency Service".

But letters to another MP on DTI headed paper, copies of which have been seen by *The Times*, show that in January 1992 Baroness Denton, then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Consumer Affairs and Small Firms, was aware of Mr Dawson's financial past. She wrote on January 12, 1992: "The issue you raise about the Department assisting projects undertaken by applicants with a 'past record of some concern' is straightforward in this particular instance. It is a matter of public record that Mr Dawson is not a majority shareholder in Rom Data Corporation and indeed it was this company that was the applicant for Regional Selective Assistance and subsequently received an offer from my Department. Similarly, Mr Dawson does not have much involvement in the day to day operations of the Falmouth facilities, preferring to channel his efforts towards running the US end of his successful business operation. I can assure you that all applications for Regional Selective Assistance are rigorously appraised by officials within this Department."

A second letter, written on April 2, 1993, said: "Mr Dawson may have made a commercial mistake in his past. But that is long ago and the fact remains that his company has created some 150 jobs in a Development Area with a current unemployment rate of 14.2 per cent."

When Rom Data collapsed, former employees were owed more than £200,000 in wages. Mr Jamieson said last night: "Clearly, I have been given some very misleading answers by DTI ministers." The DTI denied that it had misled Mr Jamieson.

Hanson plans £1.5bn US selloff

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HANSON, the Anglo-American industrial conglomerate, took a big step towards reducing its huge debt pile yesterday by announcing plans to sell two US subsidiaries, Suburban Propane and Cavenham Forest Industries, for £1.5 billion.

Gearing at the company is currently around 130 per cent after the £2.5 billion acquisition of Eastern Group, the electricity company, earlier this year.

Following its results at the beginning of the month, Hanson announced that it was looking to raise about £2 billion through disposals, including £450 million from the sale of its shares in the National Grid Company.

Derek Bonham, chief executive, said: "These disposals are part of our programme to concentrate on fewer, larger activities. Our strategy is directed towards the growth and development of our chemical, consumer, energy and building interests."

Hanson is aiming to raise £1 billion from a break-up sale of Cavenham, its timber subsidiary, although it did not rule out a sale to a single buyer. Cavenham owns and manages around 1.75 million acres of timber in Oregon, Washington, Louisiana and Mississippi as well as operating five sawmills.

Cavenham was purchased in 1990 as part of a $1.3 billion asset swap deal with Sir James Goldsmith, who acquired Hanson's stake in the gold mining company Newmont. In 1995, the subsidiary reported a 19 per cent drop in profits to £95 million.

Suburban Propane will be disposed of for around £500 million via a public offer of 62 per cent of the equity interest and a $425 million debt issue. Hanson said that it will retain a 38 per cent interest in the floated off business.

The company was acquired as part of Quantum, the petrochemical company, purchased for $3.25 billion by Hanson in 1993. Suburban serves around 800,000 customers in 39 states and is the third largest retail and wholesale distributor of propane gas in the US.

Analysts have long expected its disposal as it has never fitted in with Hanson's other interests and has consistently underperformed owing to a spate of warm winters. Last year, profits fell by 27 per cent to £41 million.

The disposals had been expected by the City and shares rose just 1.5p to 186.5p by close of trading yesterday. Hanson has been under pressure, along with other conglomerates such as BTR, which earlier this week announced the sale of Dunlop Slazenger, to hive off its non-core interests.

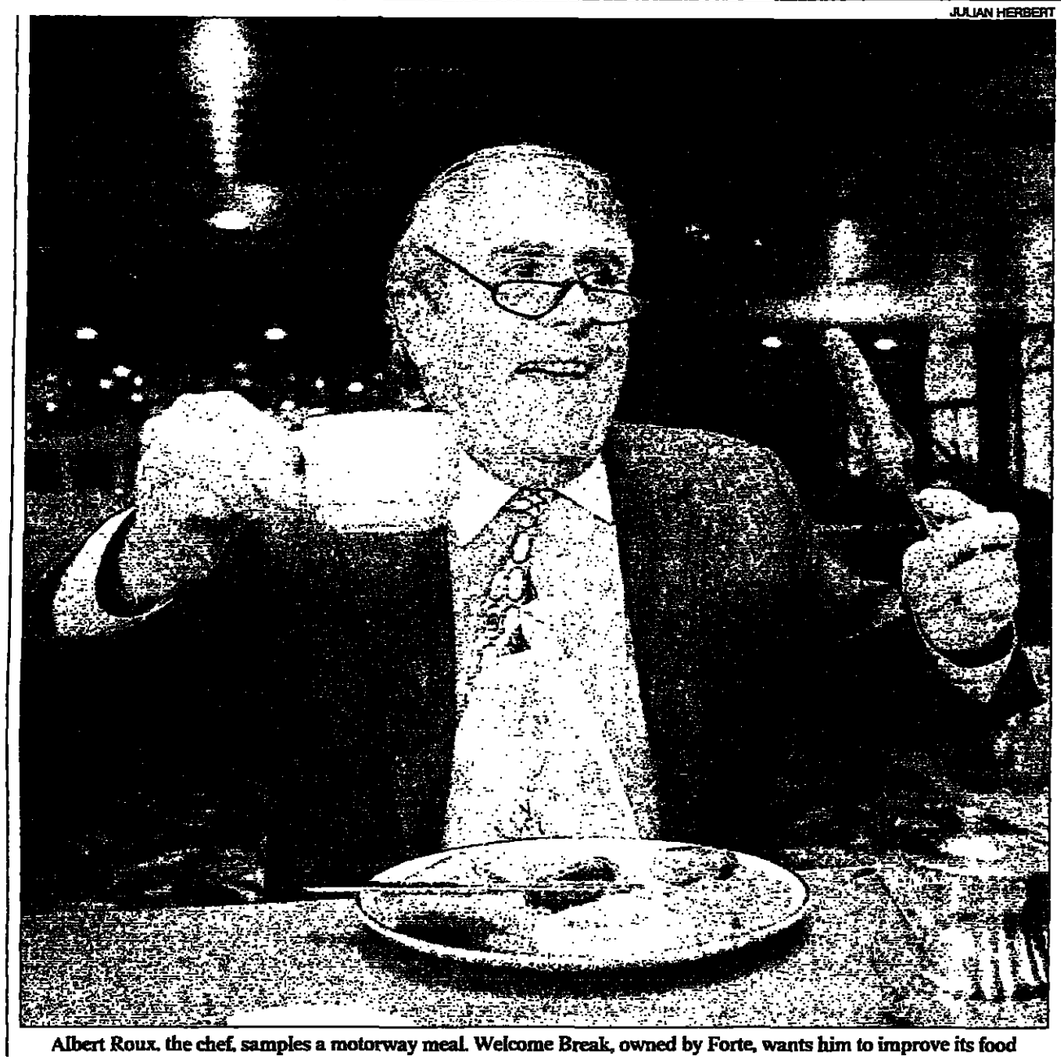
Hanson's share price has fallen by a quarter this year and has underperformed the market by 50 per cent since the beginning of the decade. Its full-year profits for 1995 fell from £1.37 million to £1.27 million and the company froze its second-half dividend payment at 3p, stating at the time that higher capital investment was the immediate priority.

Hanson started making disposals in 1994 with the £160 million demerger of Beazer, its housebuilding subsidiary. Earlier this year the conglomerate completed the flotation of US Industries, its smaller US companies. At the time this reduced gearing from 58 per cent to 38 per cent but that was before the Eastern acquisition. US Industires assumed around £890 million of Hanson debt and Hanson received about £855 million from the spinoff.

Seven Seas, the vitamins division, has been mooted as another possible disposal, although the company has always been regarded as a personal favourite of Lord Hanson.

Tempus, page 28

JULIAN HERBERT



Albert Roux, the chef, samples a motorway meal. Welcome Break, owned by Forte, wants him to improve its food

Forte sells Travelodge hotel chain

BY ERIC REGULY

FORTE, under takeover threat from Granada, yesterday sold its struggling Travelodge budget hotel chain in the US for £114 million and said it did not expect to make any other significant disposals in the next few weeks.

The company also warned shareholders that selling or demerging its interest in the Savoy Hotel group would not be quick or easy. Forte owns 68 per cent of the Savoy, but lacks voting control.

Keith Hamill, Forte's finance director, said demerging the Savoy by distributing the shares to existing Forte shareholders "is the right industrial solution". But doing so would probably create an expensive advance corporation tax liability. He said Thorn-EMI's plans to demerge have been held up by similar difficulties.

Selling the equity outright also has its problems, with bidders unlikely to offer a high price for a non-control stake.

Forte had been trying to sell the US Travelodges since last spring. The buyer was Hospitality Franchise Systems, the largest US hotels franchiser.

Forte said it was still trying to sell its White Hart hotels chain in Britain. Talks with Oriel Leisure and Apax Partners collapsed this week.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3613.7	(+36.8)
Yield	3.95%	
FT-SE A All share	1769.2	(+15.42)
Nikkei	19448.59	(+308.10)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5137.71	(+27.82)*
S&P Composite	613.89	(+1.96)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¾%*	(5⅞%)
Long Bond	110¹⁷₃₂*	(110⁸₃₂)
Yield	6.08%*	(6.12%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6¹⁵₁₆%	(6⅛%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	110⅝	(110¹⁰₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5375*	(1.5420)
London:		
$	1.5369	(1.5425)
DM	2.2154	(2.2176)
FFr	7.6170	(7.6286)
SFr	1.7774	(1.7793)
Yen	156.80	(157.09)
£ Index	82.9	(82.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4415*	(1.4430)
FFr	4.9546*	(4.9565)
SFr	1.1565*	(1.1580)
Yen	101.95*	(102.00)
$ Index	94.1	(94.0)

Tokyo close Yen 102.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar) $17.45 ($17.40)

GOLD

London close $387.90 ($388.00)

* denotes midday trading price

Irish Steel deal approved

Britain and Ireland last night struck agreement over the rescue package for Irish Steel after protracted clashes between the two countries and continuous high-level talks.

At an EU Industry Council meeting, Britain agreed to back down and not exercise a veto to stop the Irish Government injecting £17 million in state aid into its only steel plant. The cash was planned to smooth its sale to ISPAT, an Indian corporation. Britain was holding out, arguing that the aid would endanger jobs at British Steel plants in the UK.

Mortgage lending surges

BANKS and building societies gave the housing market a festive tonic yesterday by reporting a big increase in monthly mortgage lending (Robert Miller writes).

The Building Societies Association (BSA) said that net mortgage advances rose by £570 million in November to £865 million while net new commitments increased to £3.2 billion against £2.9 million in October. Figures from the British Bankers' Association showed that mortgage lending was up by £677 million last month.

Adrian Coles, director-general of the BSA, said: "With the Budget out of the way and tax cuts in the pipeline, prospects for a modest recovery in the mortgage market in 1996 are good."

Supervision chief retires from Bank

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BRIAN QUINN, the Bank of England executive director responsible for supervision, is to retire in February, the Prime Minister's office has confirmed.

Mr Quinn, who was much criticised after the collapse of Barings in February, will be succeeded by Michael Foot, the Bank's deputy director for supervision and surveillance.

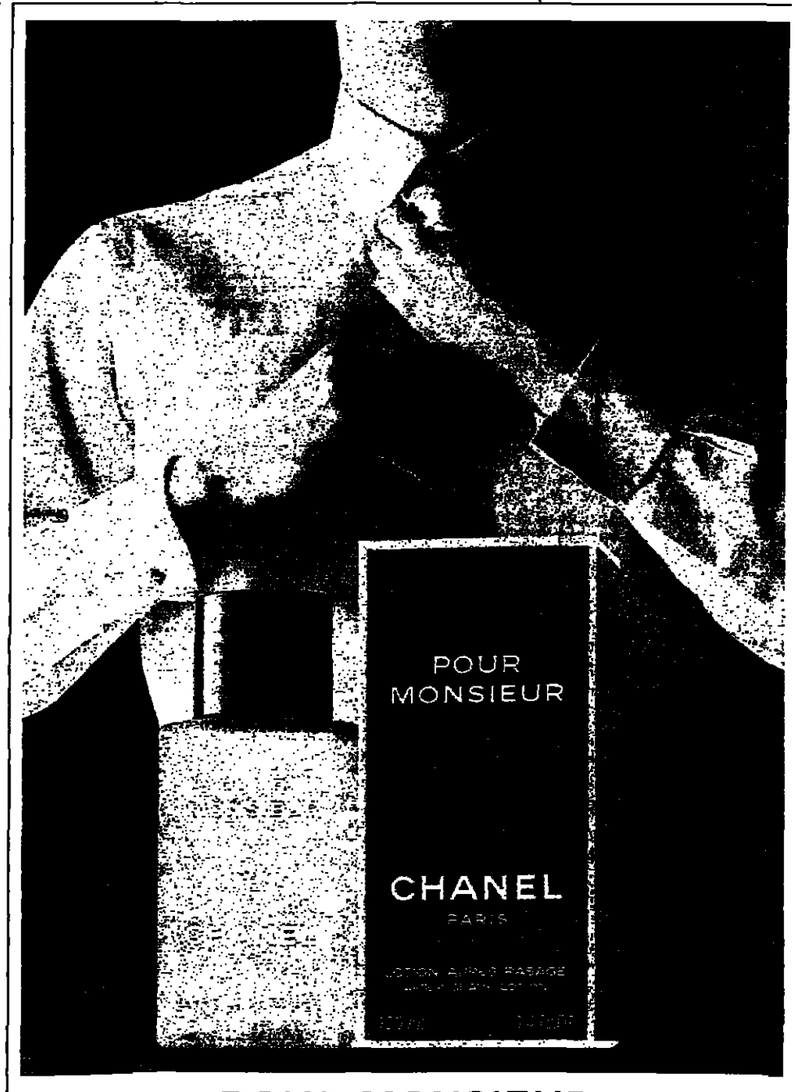
The Bank is sticking to a football theme among its non-executive directors. Sir Roland Smith, chairman of Manchester United, who is retiring as a director of the Court of the Bank, is to be succeeded by Sir John Hall, who chairs Newcastle United and has extensive business interests in northeast England.

Sir Christopher Hogg, the chairman of Courtaulds, is also retiring as a non-executive director in February, to be replaced by John Neill, chief executive of Unipart.

A Bank spokesman insisted that Mr Quinn's retirement, at 59, was not linked to the Barings affair. He said that Mr Quinn had told the court of directors more than a year ago that he did not wish his appointment to be extended.

Mervyn King, the executive director responsible for the monetary stability activities of the Bank, is reappointed for a further four-year term.

Oliver Page, head of the wholesale markets supervision division, is promoted to succeed Mr Foot as deputy director for supervision and surveillance.



POUR MONSIEUR
ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS
CHANEL

Job insecurity greater than last Christmas

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

JOB insecurity is greater than it was last Christmas, even though unemployment is falling, according to new figures today. Government ministers say the continuing fall in unemployment — down 226,000 on a year ago — is leading to more confidence in employment. But in a new survey, as many as 85 per cent of the employees sampled feel that jobs in their workplace are no more secure than last Christmas.

The survey, by the Manufacturing, Science and Finance trade union, shows that while 11 per cent of employees believe that jobs are now more secure, 42 per cent report no change, and 43 per cent say jobs are less secure than a year ago.

London, the South East, Wales and Scotland all report above-average levels of job insecurity, according to the quarterly survey of more than 360 private- and public-sector workplaces, employing almost 120,000 workers.

Roger Lyons, MSF general secretary, says: "People are going into the Christmas period not knowing if they will have a job in the new year. Ebeneezer Scrooge remains the number one role model for Britain's bosses. This survey shows that the bad treatment of employees is reaching epidemic proportions."

A fifth of employees say employers' treatment of their workforces is now worse than three months ago, and 42 per cent say it is poor or very poor. Financial services are seen as the worst, with 58 per cent citing treatment as poor or very poor.

Solicitor sentenced to ten years for fraud

BY ROBERT MILLER

A FORMER solicitor who masterminded a fraud in which £8 million was stolen from more than 1,000 beneficiaries was yesterday sent to prison for ten years by Maidstone Crown Court.

Sentencing Graham Maurice Durnford Ford, 52, a senior partner of Durnford Ford, which crashed in May 1992, Judge Croft, QC, said: "The case against you was overwhelming, but at no stage have I identified one aspect of remorse in you."

The successful prosecution was bought by the Serious Fraud Office with Sussex police.

SFO investigators said that Ford, who pleaded guilty to ten specimen counts of theft of money taken from the estates of deceased clients, lived a lavish lifestyle on the proceeds of his crime, spending more than £870,000. Before the firm in Hastings, East Sussex, went under, Ford, who was struck off the solicitors roll by the Law Society, transferred his house, on which he spent £250,000 in improvements, to his wife's name. Judge Croft said: "Transferring your house was quite obviously to cheat those from whom you stole ... You cheated everyone who came your way and you built a dunghill the better for you to crow upon. You cheated the dead."

Ford's co-accused, William Digby Bew, 33, who was found guilty on four charges of furnishing false information, was sentenced to 15 months in prison, suspended for one year. Judge Croft told Bew: "You were exposed to one of the most devious conmen I have ever come across."

Managers win Great Western and LTS auctions

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

MANAGEMENT buyout teams from the Great Western and LTS Rail train franchises threw off the public-sector shackles of British Rail yesterday when they were awarded the right to operate their own privatised train services.

Both teams won the auctions of the passenger franchises against stiff competition. They were the second and third franchises to be let under rail privatisation of the 25 that make up the BR passenger network. The first, South West Trains, was signed earlier in the week.

The successful private bidders will take over running of the services in the new year.

Great Western, which operates InterCity services between Paddington station in London and the West country, the Cotswolds and South Wales, will receive an average of £44.8 million of subsidy a year over the seven to ten year life of the franchise. This compares with BR's subsidy support for the franchise of £47.3 million in the current year.

The management team at LTS Rail, which operates commuter services in east London and south Essex, will be paid an average of £26.1 million by Roger Salmon, the franchising director, compared with the BR support of £28 million this year. The franchise will run for either seven or 15 years, depending on the level of new investment made by the franchise operators.

The deals were both backed by 3i, with additional equity funding provided for LTS Rail by the Gresham Trust venture capital firm and for Great Western by FirstBus, Britain's second biggest bus company.

They involve an innovative finance package reflecting the short life-spans of the franchises and the lack of assets owned by the private operators. Trains are leased from specialist rolling stock companies and the track and stations are owned by Railtrack. The deals involve the accumulation of "cash pools" from profits over the course of the franchises, which will be distributed to the equity participants once they have run their course. Management and employees, many of whom have made substantial personal contributions to the financing, will effectively be entitled to the cash that is left once their equity partners have taken their cut.

The leaders of both franchise teams said their liberation from the state sector would give them the freedom to introduce a wide range of innovations to improve their services. Brian Scott, managing director of Great Western, which is 51 per cent owned by management and employees, promised that all existing train services would continue to be operated through the course of the franchise with additional services planned. , such as an hourly shuttle to Bristol and Cardiff.

Improvements on LTS Rail, once dubbed the "misery line" because of its appalling record for delays and cancellations, will mainly centre on replacing its obselete rolling stock.

Three-quarters of its trains date back to the 1960s and will be replaced "in the soonest possible time," said Chris Kinchen-Smith, the managing director of the management bid vehicle, Enterprise Rail. He guaranteed that at least 95 per cent of the services run on the line by British Rail would continue.

Small firms deny jobs will go from wage move

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

SMALL businesses do not believe that a statutory minimum wage would lead them to cut jobs — and more than half do not feel that a national minimum would have any effect on their business.

The findings of the latest survey among small firms by the Federation of Small Business, which also suggests that small companies are still suffering from what they see as the weak state of the economy, runs strongly counter to Government ministers' claims that the Labour party's plans for a national minimum wage will hit jobs.

The Government insists that Labour's planned statutory minimum could lead to the loss of more than two million jobs as employees and unions use the establishment of a national minimum to restore pay differentials.

Though Labour maintains that it will not set a minimum rate in advance of the general election and will only do so after consulting with industry, business organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry claim it could add up to £4.5 billion to industry's costs. But in its latest bi-monthly opinion survey published today, the Federation of Small Business suggests that the impact of a national minimum on small companies — which generate the majority of new jobs — could be minimal.

Fifty-three per cent of the sample of FSB members surveyed said a statutory minimum would have no effect on their businesses, though 38 per cent said it would be likely to lead to them reducing the number of hours people worked. But only 8 per cent said that the introduction of a statutory minimum would force them to stop employing people altogether.

Jacqueline Jeynes, FSB employment affairs chairman, said: "We are not surprised that over 50 per cent of our members surveyed stated that a minimum wage would have no effect on their business, given the fact that many do not currently employ staff." She said the issue of a statutory minimum "needs closer analysis."

On the overall economy, the federation's survey — taken before last week's cut in interest rates — says small businesses are continuing to suffer from the weak economy.

Sixty-two per cent say that economic weakness is the main barrier to their growth. A fifth attribute the lack of growth to the poor availability of affordable finance, 16 per cent say that even if more finance were available, confidence is now so low that they would not want to expand their business.

Ian Hanford, FSB national policy group chairman, says: "We have been warning about the weakness of the economy for some time and this month's cut in bank base rates, although welcome, will have no significant effect on the 'feel-good' factor."

He adds: "Our worry now is that 1996 will be another year of poor economic growth which will especially hit small businesses."

Six join Lloyd's as 2,067 disappear

By Sarah Bagnall

ONLY six new individual names have signed to join Lloyd's of London next year, compared with 2,067 who have opted, or been forced, to pull out of underwriting in the insurance market, Lloyd's disclosed yesterday.

Of the departures, 1,089 names resigned, while the others were either names who did not have adequate funding to allow them to continue underwriting, names who decided not to underwrite this year and names who have died.

The latest departures add to the flood of names who have left the market in the past eight years. The total number of individual names underwriting for 1996 is 12,811, well below the current year's level of 14,884 and a far cry from the 32,433 Lloyd's boasted at its peak in 1988.

The drop in the number of individual names has resulted in a decline in funds made available to Lloyd's to insure risks. Lloyd's capacity has fallen from £10.2 billion in 1995 to £9.85 billion for next year. Of this, individual members have contributed £6.8 billion (£7.8 billion).

The amount of capacity provided by corporate capital names accounts for 31 per cent, or £3 billion, of the market's capacity in 1996, compared with £2.4 billion in 1995 and is nearly double the level of 1994.

The rise reflects the entry of 25 new corporate members, which has swelled the number to 165.

David Rowland, chairman, said: "The figures clearly demonstrate the resilience and confidence of both the traditional membership and the established and new corporate members. We take all this as a strong vote of confidence in Lloyd's at a time of radical change."

Agents at risk, page 29



Anthony Mason, William Rodgers and Paul Gregory with 3i's Andrew Garside and Tim Simpson

Big Green Parcel Machine unwrapped in £31m buyout

By Martin Barrow, Deputy Business Editor

MANAGERS of Tuffnells Parcels Express, the parcel delivery company based in Sheffield, have acquired their company for nearly £31 million.

The buyout team is led by managing director Paul Gregory, a former solicitor who joined Tuffnells in 1985. He is supported by Anthony Mason, operations director, and William Rogers, finance director. The buyout vehicle has been named Big Green Parcel Machine.

Tuffnells is being acquired from Transport Development Group (TDG) and Ducros Services Rapides, who each held a 50 per cent interest. Funding for the buyout was jointly negotiated and arranged by 3i, the venture capital group, and Phildrew Ventures, which together provided almost £15 million of equity and mezzanine finance.

TDG has subscribed £800,000 for a 5 per cent interest in Big Green. Under the joint ownership of TDG and Ducros Tuffnells has increased profits significantly. Last year, the business earned £3.81 million before tax. Net assets were £8.94 million at the end of last December. TDG will use the disposal proceeds to support the growth of continuing businesses in consumer and industrial logistics and hire. Last month, the company paid £6.4 million for LPH, a plant hire business, to strengthen Cox, its existing plant hire operation.

Britain's non-EU trade gap halved

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

BRITAIN'S trade deficit with countries outside the European Union more than halved in November, reflecting record exports and a drop in imports. The deficit totalled £496 million, down from £1.18 billion in October.

The Central Statistical Office said that half of the improvement was due to a one-off export of a warship to Saudi Arabia, but even the underlying deficit dropped sharply.

Stripping out oil and erratic items such as ships, the shortfall dropped to £525 million from £982 million in October.

Exports jumped to a record high of £5.78 billion, a 9 per cent rise from the previous month, while imports fell 3 per cent to £6.27 billion.

Adam Cole, of James Capel, said that the fall in imports suggested that manufacturers are no long building up stock levels, a massive phenomenon throughout the year so far.

Other figures yesterday showed that, outside the mortgage sector, bank lending was depressed. The British Bankers Association said that bank lending to the private sector increased by only £680 million, well down on the October figure of £2.1 billion and an average of £1.75 billion in the last six months.

In addition, Bank of England figures showed that M4 lending was subdued at £3.4 billion, down from £5.4 billion in October.

Despite this weak figure, total M4 money supply increased at an annual rate of 9.3 per cent in November, up from 8.7 per cent in October and above the Government's 3 to 9 per cent monitoring range.

Analysts said that this was largely because the Bank was behind in its funding of the public sector borrowing requirement (which boosts M4) and that this should be temporary.

They said that this factor should not deter more rate cuts in the spring if the economy continues to be weak.

The economic data left the gilts market unmoved. A recovery in US Treasury bonds later helped the March gilt future to rise $^{7}/_{32}$ to 110.

Business Roundup

Electricity Pool calls for extensive testing

FURTHER fears that the introduction of full competition to the energy market in 1998 will hit delays and cost obstacles were revealed yesterday by the Electricity Pool. The Pool, which sets power prices and organises payment procedures, disclosed a warning it has sent to Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator. In a summary of its blueprint for 1998, which is currently being considered by the regulator, the Pool says: "It is unlikely that the trading systems will be sufficiently tested to enable their use in live market trials ahead of April 1998."

The document calls for thorough testing of all systems to avoid the administrative confusion that arose in 1994, when the power market was opened to competition for larger users. The potential for problems will be all the greater in 1998, with competition running throughout the domestic and industrial market. The Pool urged the Office of Electricity Regulation to "set out a clear strategy for the trialling programme to ensure that customers and industry do not suffer similar problems to those encountered in 1994". With the regulator soon to rule on how the costs of the new trading systems will be recovered, the Pool said the bill will be at least £320 million. Electricity companies are lobbying that they should not have to bear the cost.

Hoechst to cut 8,000 jobs

HOECHST, the German chemicals company, plans a reorganisation and consolidation of its global pharmaceutical business, Hoechst Marion Roussel, with the loss of 8,000 jobs and the closure of more than half of its 77 drug factories, including five plants in North America. A research facility in Swindon will also be closed. The action will cost $800 million. About 1,400 jobs will go in Germany. The company expects to save $800 million annually from 1997 through the integration of marketing, administration, research and production.

BCCI compensation

A LUXEMBOURG court has given its approval to a $1.8 billion compensation payment to the creditors of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), removing the final hurdle and allowing a first payment to be made in the first half of next year. An estimated 100,000 creditors worldwide, 35,000 of them in the UK, hope to receive a payment of at least 20p in the pound in May or June next year. It will be the first payment since BCCI was closed by international banking regulators in July 1991.

Co-operative expands

THE Co-operative Bank is creating 425 jobs with the opening of a second telephone banking centre. It will be based at The Pyramid in Stockport, a landmark office building south of Manchester. The Co-op's Armchair Banking service is already the UK's largest phone banking operation and the new centre is to cope with increasing demand. Terry Thomas, managing director, said: "We will take six million incoming calls this year and predict that this number will more than double in the next four years."

USDC cash incentive

USDC, the £100 million international capital growth investment trust managed by GT, is to offer its major shareholders a cash incentive to back a reorganisation plan after a prolonged period of underperformance. Born out of the old US Debenture Corporation trust, which was partially unitised in 1988, USDC is to change its investment strategy to create a new UK income growth investment trust and double the yield at a stroke. The stock market reacted favourably and marked the shares up 14p to 267p.

Rodime in debt talks

RODIME, the London-listed American disk drive company with manufacturing facilities in Scotland, has entered talks with bankers aimed at restructuring its share capital and debts. The move follows a US court defeat in September for Rodime's patent claim against Quantum, a rival disk drive maker, which jeopardised future revenue. Yesterday, the company reported a pre-tax loss of $4.12 million for the year to September 30, against a $7 million loss previously. Losses per share were 3.14 cents (5.04 cents). There is again no dividend.

CALA issues warning

SHARES in CALA fell 24p to 87p after the housebuilder warned investors that profits for the year to June 30 1996 would not meet expectations. Sales reservations were low, particularly in the South East, and the company was obliged to make greater use of sales incentives and price reductions, which had an adverse impact on margins. The board's best estimate was that profits would be little changed from last year's level of £4.1 million before tax and an exceptional land sale profit. Directors expect to maintain the total dividend at 3.2p.

PolyGram pays $62m for Samuel Goldwyn library

By Martin Barrow

POLYGRAM, the music and entertainment group that dismayed shareholders with a profit warning on Tuesday, yesterday announced the $62 million purchase of the Samuel Goldwyn film and television library.

The library comprises more than 850 theatrical films, including recent releases such as the Oscar-winning *The Madness of King George*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Henry V*. The library also holds a long-term licence, recently extended, to 75 classic films, including *Wuthering Heights*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Best Years of Our Lives*. PolyGram will also own 700 episodes from television series ranging from the original *Flipper* to *American Gladiators*, a syndicated athletic competition.

The acquisition does not include Samuel Goldwyn's other interests, which include a chain of theatres, projects in development and domestic and foreign distribution operations. Samuel Goldwyn retains liability for its corporate debt.

The film and television library will form part of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, which this year acquired ITC Entertainment Group's film and television catalogue and worldwide television distribution operations. It also owns Interscope Communications, Island Pictures, Propaganda Films and UK-based Working Title Films.


The Madness of King George is among films in the library PolyGram has acquired

Daily Mail buys Pathe

By Our City Staff

DAILY MAIL & General Trust, the newspaper group that has set up Harmsworth Broadcasting, has bought British Pathe from a private investor for an undisclosed sum.

British Pathe owns the Pathe News archive, which contains almost 3,000 hours of old newsreel shot between 1896 and 1970. British Pathe also supplies footage around the world, produces its own television and video programmes and makes joint productions with the BBC.

Sir David English, the chairman of Harmsworth Broadcasting, said: "1996 marks the 100th birthday of the Daily Mail and the 100th birthday of British Pathe. Bringing these two organisations together for the next century is a further indication of this newspaper group's deep commitment to the multimedia future."

Robert Jackson and Chris Davis, joint managing directors of British Pathe, have renewed their service contracts and will expand the business with increased emphasis on international television production and video publishing.

Previous owners of the Pathe library include Thorn EMI and Alan Bond.

Clinton vetoes proportional liability law

By Robert Bruce

BILL CLINTON stunned the American accounting profession by failing to support proposed legislation which would have enshrined the principle of proportional liability.

Despite signs that he would be supportive of the Bill, which aimed to outlaw the practice of "frivolous" lawsuits, President Clinton vetoed the legislation.

Mike Cook, chairman of Deloitte & Touche, said he was "very disappointed" at the decision. He called the move "misguided" and said that US accounting firms would do all they could to override the veto in the next few days.

The legislation would have brought to an end the practice, seen as endemic in America, of lawyers taking out "strike suits" against growing companies which falter. Companies are then urged to provide a swift payout to the professional plaintiffs rather than face the ruinous cost of going to court. The US accountancy profession has fought hard to change the law so that, in any action, the accountants bear proportional liability for genuine damages, rather than bearing the whole burden regardless of wrongdoing.


Clinton: surprise decision

The proposed law would also have had a knock-on effect in the UK, where a commission has been set up to look into the possibility of changing accountants' liability from the current joint and several basis to that of proportional liability. That process is estimated to take at least five years.

In America, the President's actions are certain to further alienate the US accounting profession. Mr Cook said: "Maybe we should be fighting for a Republican president, who would be more responsive to business rather than plaintiff's Bar."

Accountancy, page 30

Chief of Kay's Food quits

CHRIS BALL has resigned as chief executive of Kay's Food Group, one of the crop of new-issue disasters of last year. Mr Ball's departure comes ten months after he was brought in to help restore the flagging fortunes of the cooked meats and catering group.

Mr Ball, who was chief executive at Hazlewood Foods until last year, stays on the Kay's board as non-executive chairman. The company said his resignation followed the sale of the meat processing operation. The shares stayed at 1½p.

Tourist Rates

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.17	2.01
Austria Sch	18.85	15.15
Belgium Fr	48.69	44.39
Canada $	2.220	2.060
Cyprus Cypr	0.748	0.691
Denmark Kr	8.23	8.49
Finland Mrk	7.28	6.63
France Fr	8.04	7.39
Germany Dm	2.36	2.17
Greece Dr	388.00	363.00
Hong Kong $	12.54	11.54
Ireland Pr	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.2200	4.5700
Italy Lira	2565.00	2410.00
Japan Yen	171.30	156.30
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.644	2.414
New Zealand $	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	10.41	9.61
Portugal Esc	244.00	225.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.39
Spain Pta	185.50	182.50
Sweden Kr	10.85	10.05
Switzerland Fr	1.92	1.73
Turkey Lira	refer	83647.0
USA $	1.536	1.508

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

☐ Backing both ends of the Forte bid ☐ British Steel down home in Alabama ☐ No question of delay for unit trusts

MAM's tricky double act

☐ THERE is a long and honourable tradition in the City of stitching up both sides of a takeover bid. But no one is quite sure just what Carol Galley at Mercury Asset Management is up to at Forte/Granada.

MAM, with just short of 14 per cent of both companies, was always going to be a key player. The normal way of playing both sides off against each other is to buy the target, on the assumption of a higher offer, while going short in the bidder and so making a turn on any further falls as the need to thrash around for further cash and underwriting forces the price lower.

But MAM has been buying small amounts of both companies. Some of this has been by various independent funds under the Mercury umbrella, acting on their own, but there is a suspicion of a concerted policy.

Conspiracy theorists have it that MAM, while quite naturally buying Forte on hopes of a higher offer, is trying to support Granada's share price and so lend encouragement to just such a move — the lower Granada's shares fall, and they have already slumped from £7 to 630p, the more difficult this becomes.

Probably not. MAM will benefit if Granada fails to bid higher and so loses, which it almost certainly would, because the shares would rebound by as much as a pound. Not only would towering debt and the uncertainty over whether Gerry Robinson can run the enlarged group go away, there have been other encouraging developments for Granada, such as last week's change in media ownership rules, that have been missed.

Unfortunately, received wisdom has it, MAM's gains would be matched by a collapse in the Forte share price. But again, probably not. Forte has made a sufficiently good fist of showing how greatly improved things would be in future — out of the Savoy, yesterday's disposal on admittedly lousy terms of the woefully underperforming Travelodge business — that the price fall might not be that steep.

The betting still remains that Granada will come back with a higher offer by the January 9 deadline. It will then be down to the institutions — and the weird and wonderful Council of Forte.

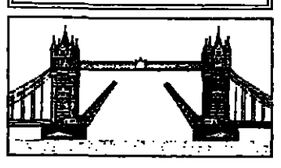
One of the founding principles of the Council was the furtherance of temperance, since sensibly dropped in favour of looking after the investors. It is now an apparently random selection of nobs and would seem to have as much to do with modern corporate governance as Albert Roux does with a Welcome Break motorway caff — but then, look at Mr Roux's latest little earner.

The High Court judgment allows the Council, which has yet to show its hand, to block even a higher bid. The way would then be open for the mother and father of all commercial legal actions, to the delectation of lawyers up and down the land. But it would not be in the interests of shareholders, and one hopes the Council will view any higher offer on its merits.

The price of steel

☐ BRITISH STEEL has been doing its best to force the Irish steel industry out of business, at the cost of jobs in rural Ireland, because state aid is wrong. Can this be the same British Steel now helping build a new plant in Alabama with the help of $250 million of soft State loans and further tax breaks?

PENNINGTON



Strange to say, it is. This might be pragmatic, taking advantage of whatever is on offer in the States while ensuring a competitive market closer to home. Alternatively, it might look like corporate hypocrisy. It depends if you are a shareholder in British Steel, a soon-to-be-unemployed Irish steel worker, or one in America facing the same fate once the plant in Decatur, Alabama, is open.

British Steel is a quarter of a consortium along with Sumitomo of Japan and local partner LTV. Critics of the plant say 4,000 jobs in Cleveland, Ohio, will go if it is built.

This oddly mirrors British Steel's own complaints about Irish government aid for the Haulbowline plant in Co Cork currently being bought by an Indian company. The Indians insist that deal needs £17 million of state loans written off and another £10 million provided, which suggests they have learnt a few negotiating tips from the Koreans. British Steel had claimed this would jeopardise up to 1,000 jobs in the UK.

A transcript of a hearing into the consortium's plans in Alabama makes fascinating reading, not least because of the obvious discomfiture of its chief executive over the matter of state aid. Any comment on a widely-circulated figure of $85 million in tax breaks would be premature until future profits from the plant are known, he says.

There will be a maximum of $250 million in the form of bond financing from the Industrial Development Board of Decatur, Alabama. But it will have to be paid back, of course — by the plant once it is operating, not by any of the partners.

British Steel makes the point that the Irish aid is illegal under European legislation, while the Alabama incentives are available to all potential investors. True; but it is not a distinction that will mean much to those unemployed steel workers.

A matter of trusts

☐ THE rearguard action by the Association of Investment Trust Companies in seeking a delay on the introduction of new cash and cost disclosure rules is a disservice to the millions of investors who have backed the sector with their money.

No one ever suggested that introducing the key disclosure rules was going to be a picnic. Just ask the life offices and independent financial advisers who have had to jump through far more onerous disclosure hoops. The AITC was given an indication of the way in which the Personal Investment Authority was minded to act back in October 1994.

Its concerns were duly noted and some alterations to the proposed rules were made. The genuine trusts have nothing to fear from the new disclosure regime. But in recent years many new investment groups have created highly complex and expensive share structures and marketed these newcomers at huge expense.

These costs, which shareholders have to bear at the end of the day, have not always been revealed. The PIA is right to stand up for the entitlement of private investors to know how much the company in which they put their hard-earned cash is keeping for itself and how much is being invested in the underlying trust.

Indeed the watchdog should go further, by making an example of those trusts that do not comply with the PIA timetable.

Water pressure

☐ HAD Ian Byatt's splendid proposals for huge fines on those water companies failing to provide the stuff been in place last year, they would have cost one of the most culpable, Yorkshire Water — well, precisely nothing, claims the company. In truth, there would be compensation for low pressure and for business users. The effects on the industry, however, would be limited. But note how Professor Byatt has slipped in one of his *ideas fixes*, metering. All must suffer hosepipe bans — except for metered households prepared to pay for the extra water.

RTZ clears final hurdle to clinch mining merger

BY COLIN CAMPBELL AND RACHEL BRIDGE

THE world's biggest mining group — the union of RTZ and CRA — was born yesterday after shareholders in both groups and on opposite sides of the world voted overwhelmingly in favour of uniting their two businesses.

The proposed merger yesterday of CRA in Australia with its British parent, RTZ, had been threatened by hurdles placed in its path by the Australian Government. However, at the eleventh hour, the Australian authorities agreed to lift the two conditions it had imposed on the deal.

Sir Derek Birkin, RTZ chairman, welcomed the shareholders' decision, saying: "We are delighted that both RTZ and CRA shareholders have grasped the opportunity to participate together in a global enterprise with enhanced potential for profitable growth."

John Uhrig, CRA chairman, said: "The merger provides a platform for fast-track growth internationally. Our shareholders are gaining an interest in a mining group with diversified global assets and a well-balanced commodity portfolio."

Almost 99 per cent of the votes cast by shareholders in Australia supported the A$27 billion merger with RTZ, which will create the largest mining company in the world.

In what is being seen as a major triumph for RTZ, Ralph Willis, Federal Treasurer, agreed to drop his demands that at least one third of the board of the merged group be Australian and that CRA be given control of the merged group's Latin American operations. In return, RTZ has agreed to reduce its stake in CRA from 49 per cent to 39 per cent over the next ten years.

Mr Willis said: "The agreement will ensure that CRA remains Australian and achieves its full potential as a world class mining house. The (Australian) Government places significant importance on the wider involvement in world economic activity of Australia's mining companies."

However, Australian mining analysts pointed out that RTZ had always intended to reduce its stake in CRA over the next few years through equity raisings to fund future acquisitions.

David Walker, director of stockbrokers ABN Amro in Melbourne, said: "The Government thinks they've done a good deal, but they haven't understood what they have done. They think they have maintained their rage and have given the appearance of holding on to the farm. In reality, they have played right into RTZ's hands. RTZ has made it clear that it is looking to take advantage of opportunities in the region, and CRA shares are undoubtedly going to be the currency of any acquisition."

A spokesman for CRA said: "We appreciate the constructive flexibility that the Government has shown. It is an agreement that both RTZ and CRA are happy with."

Mr Uhrig, who will become deputy chairman of RTZ, said: "Far from confusing shareholders by the novelty of the dual-listed company concept in Australia, the global breadth and logic of CRA uniting with RTZ seems to have captured the imagination of our shareholders."

Under the proposed dual-listed companies structure, RTZ and CRA will retain their separate shareholders and existing share listings but will combine their businesses into one international enterprise with common boards and unified management.

CRA's shares ended the day up 38 cents at A$21.70 on the Australian Stock Exchange. In London, RTZ shares were unchanged at 930p.



Peter Wiegand said the group intended to expand its product range to reduce its exposure to weather changes

US allows Glaxo to sell Zantac 75

BY ERIC REGULY

GLAXO WELLCOME has won regulatory approval in America to sell an over-the-counter version of Zantac, the ulcer treatment that has been the world's best-selling prescription medicine since the late 1980s.

The introduction of Zantac 75, as it is called, will open up a new market for Glaxo. The company estimates that the US sales of over-the-counter treatments for heartburn, acid indigestion and the like are close to $1.5 billion a year. Glaxo shares surged after the announcement, then settled back to close at 886p, up 6p.

Glaxo will sell Zantac 75 through its joint venture with Warner-Lambert, the American drugs group. The two companies will share the profits and any further development costs equally. Glaxo will also receive a sales royalty.

Glaxo and Warner-Lambert said they expect Zantac 75 to be as successful in America as it has been in Britain, where it has captured about half the market for non-prescription ulcer treatments since March. Tagamet, produced by Smith-Kine Beecham, is one of Zantac 75's main competitors.

Zantac 75 has the same make-up as Zantac, but is sold in lower doses. In the US, its introduction will be accompanied by national radio, television and print campaigns.

In another development, Glaxo has received regulatory clearance in the US market Nimbex, an agent used in general anaesthesia.

Inchcape stands by flotation plans for Bain Hogg

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

INCHCAPE has acted to remove uncertainty over its plans for Bain Hogg, its international insurance broking arm. It says it remains committed to a flotation "in due course".

The statement followed speculation that it had received approaches from Aon, Alexander & Alexander and a management buyout team.

However, a spokesman for the company, chaired by Sir David Plastow, said a stock market listing was still 18 months to two years away. He said: "It really depends on market conditions at the time. At the moment stock market ratings for insurance brokers are on the depressed side and sentiment would have to change."

He said that Inchcape had received "less than five" offers, but the prices were not right. The spokesman added that Bain Hogg, which was created by the merger of Hogg Group with Bain Clarkson in April 1994, was performing well. He said: "We are pleased with the way that the merger has gone and delighted with the way management is running the business."

Inchcape paid £176.6 million for Hogg Group last year. Chris Hitchings, insurance analyst at UBS, said that since then, the value of insurance brokers has fallen as the market has taken the view that the pick-up in insurance premiums is some way off.

He said the market value of Bain Hogg would be around £170 million to £200 million. This compares with £350 million to £400 million that Inchcape is rumoured to have been seeking for the business.



Plastow: speculation

Claremont trims forecast

BY SARAH BAGNALL

CLAREMONT GARMENTS, the clothing manufacturer, yesterday followed in the footsteps of two if its larger rivals by reining in market expectations of its full-year profits.

The clothing manufacturer of Peterlee, County Durham, supplies more than 90 per cent of its output to Marks and Spencer. It said full-year profits were expected to be similar to last year's level of £15 million. The news prompted analysts to cut their forecasts from about £17 million.

The shares, which have fallen in the past few months, remained unchanged at 270p. Peter Wiegand, chairman, said profits had been hit by a combination of "the mild autumn weather and fragile consumer confidence".

The extremely mild autumn affected sales of wool coats, of which Claremont is the biggest supplier. Mr Wiegand said that, in order to reduce the group's exposure to weather changes, it intended to expand its product range. "We want to make raincoats as well as wool coats, for example," he said. The process of moving into new lines, such as supplying M&S with dressing gowns, nighties and girls' casualwear, had already started, he added.

Tempus, page 28

Investment trusts lose battle to delay disclosure rules

BY ROBERT MILLER

A LEADING City watchdog has refused to grant the £50 billion investment trust movement a delay in introducing key cash disclosure rules for investors (see Pennington, this page).

The Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC), whose 315 member trusts account for more than 90 per cent of the sector, has applied for a six-month delay in implementing the disclosure rules which are due to be published next month and take effect from July 1.

The AITC wants the enforcement date for the new rules, which are similar to those in force for life and pensions policies and show in cash terms how much of each investment is swallowed up in commission and other costs, to be put back to January 1, 1997.

The Personal Investment Authority, the regulator for firms that sell direct to the public, insists that the investment trust industry has been aware of the new disclosure rules since the first discussion document was published in October 1994. A senior PIA source indicated last night that it would not back down and that investment trusts must obey the new rules.

Ernest Fenton, director-general of the AITC, said: "We have no problem with the rules but it seems a bit crazy and unreasonable to introduce them in such a hurry. A lot of work still needs to be done." The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds said it had no problem with the new disclosure rules nor the PIA's timetable.

Investment trusts have always used their low-cost charging structure as a marketing tool and this is true of many of the old traditonal trusts such as Foreign & Colonial. However, many new launches in recent years have introduced complicated share structures and used huge marketing budgets.

Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION

The following rates for mortgages provided by Bank of Scotland, Mortgages Direct will apply as from 20th December 1995 for loans not yet drawn and from 1st February 1996 for existing borrowers.

Bank of Scotland
Mortgages Direct Variable Rate
7.99% per annum.

Bank of Scotland
Mortgages Direct Preferential Rate
6.99% per annum.

BANK OF SCOTLAND
MORTGAGES DIRECT
0800 810 810

BAT embroiled in $1bn lawsuit

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

THE state of Massachusetts has launched a $1 billion lawsuit against BAT Industries and Brown & Williamson, its US subsidiary, as well as several other leading tobacco groups in a claim to cover the medical costs of treating smokers.

The suit is a further blow to the US tobacco industry, which is being hit by legal disputes with government agencies, the media and individuals. Four other states have launched similar actions against the companies, which include Philip Morris, RJ Reynolds, Lorillard Tobacco and Liggett Group. With the latest suit, the tobacco industry now faces claims from state governments and individuals running into several billions of dollars. Although it is fighting back with counter-suits, insiders believe that substantial payments in out-of-court settlements are likely.

The growing wave of criticism has also led the Food and Drug Administration to press for the regulation of cigarettes as drugs, a move the tobacco companies are fighting tooth and nail.

Massachusetts claims to spend about $200 million a year of taxpayers' money on treating tobacco-related health problems. It also accuses the companies of misleading the public by denying that cigarettes cause cancer and are addictive and by denying that they manipulate nicotine levels in cigarettes. These claims are particularly damaging to Brown & Williamson, which is currently involved in a high-profile court case after allegations by a former executive that it suppressed research showing the harmful effects of tobacco.

The company has managed to stop a television documentary in which Jeffrey Wigand, former vice-president for research, allegedly claimed that B&W abandoned plans to develop a safe cigarette. He is also understood to have accused the company of suppressing information about the addictiveness of tobacco.

B&W is suing Mr Wigand for breaking a confidentiality agreement, but it and other companies are bracing themselves for further embarrassing evidence likely to be put forward by Mr Wigand in court. He is appearing as a witness in several of the cases being brought by states. .

Philip Morris is also embroiled in a dispute over a leaked report by a senior executive that likens nicotine to a drug and describes cigarettes as a "nicotine delivery system".

STOCK MARKET  PHILIP PANGALOS

Shares power back above 3,600 mark

A STRONG recovery in New York combined with bid speculation and healthy rises for selective stocks helped shares in London to power back above the 3,600 level.

Equities started on a firmer footing after an overnight recovery on Wall Street in the wake of the US Federal Reserve's move to cut the Fed funds rate by a quarter point. A mixed set of domestic economic data had little impact on shares, but Wall Street's strong start and optimism that a resolution to the US Budget impasse is nearer further bolstered sentiment in late London trade.

The FTSE 100 index ended near its best levels, rising 36.8 points to 3,613.7. Volume, boosted by speculative buying and end of year book-squaring, reached 894 million shares.

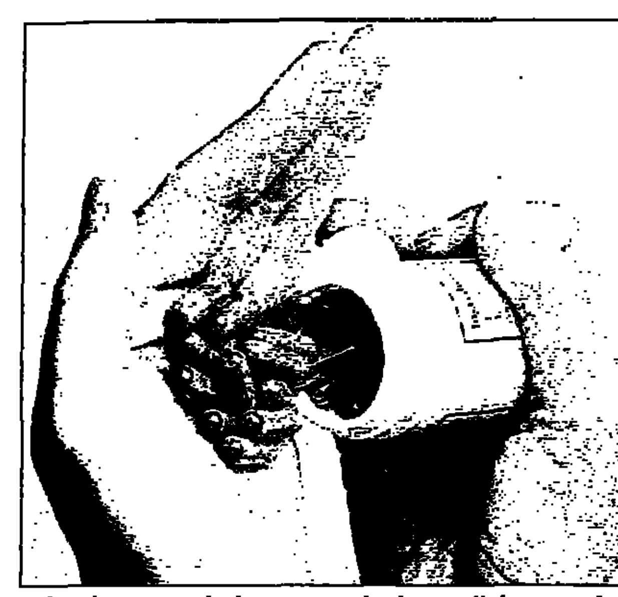
British Gas continued its recovery, advancing another 10½p to 250p, on heavy volume of 36 million shares, giving a two-day gain of 21p, as the cold spell and a high gas price in America combined with renewed speculation about a possible bid from **Shell**, up 11p at 845p, or **BP**, 10p stronger at 529p.

In contrast to Tuesday, international dollar-related stocks were back in favour, with **ICI** up 25p to 758p, **GEC** 11½p stronger to 328½p and **General Accident**, additionally boosted by a recovery in US bonds, rising 28p to 651p. American support and a Lehman Brothers' recommendation helped **Vodafone Group** add 12½p to 223½p, making it the day's best-performing FTSE stock as volume reached 9.9 million shares.

The pharmaceutical sector was also in the spotlight. **Glaxo Wellcome** rose to 899p, before settling at 886p, up 8p, on volume of 6.81 million shares, after it received appoval from the US Food and Drug Administration for an over-the-counter version of Zantac, its ulcer treatment.

Zantac is already the group's best selling prescription medicine, but analysts expected the news and will not be changing their forecasts.

They expect Glaxo to encounter some competition in the US from Merk's Pepcid and SmithKline Beecham's Tagamet, the first two OTC heartburn drugs that were introduced into the US market earlier this year. Glaxo Wellcome also received FDA clearance to market Nimbex.



The pharmaceutical sector was in the spotlight yesterday

Elsewhere in the sector, **SmithKline Beecham** added 7p to 671p and **Zeneca** 4p to £12.22, while **Anagen**, the automated immunoassay systems specialist, jumped 19p to 76p after the FDA granted clearance for a new assay to measure testosterone.

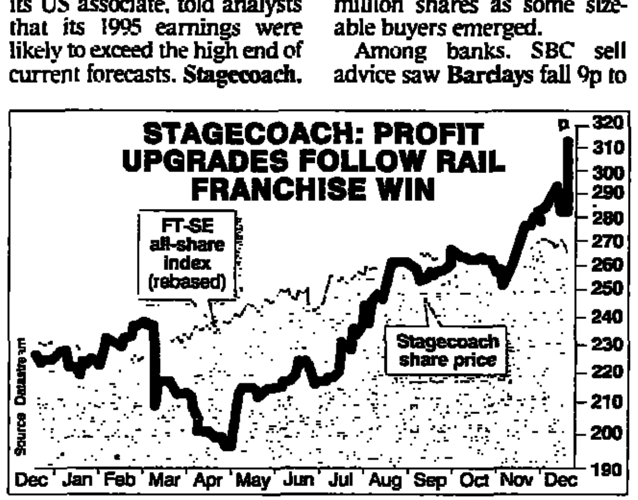
National Power, which completed an earnings enhancing share buyback on Tuesday, was squeezed 18p higher to 447p, while demand for the partly-paid shares saw them add 14p to 154p. **PowerGen** gained 6p to 530p in the hope that it may follow a similar course.

British Airways climbed 4p to 467p, buoyed after USAir, its US associate, told analysts that its 1995 earnings were likely to exceed the high end of current forecasts. **Stagecoach**, the bus company, advanced 22p to 315p as it continued to celebrate winning the South West trains franchise. Richard Hannah, of UBS, has reiterated his buy recommendation and upgraded his pretax profits forecast by an underlying £8 million, including a £7 million restructuring provision, to £55 million for the year to April 1997. The following year's profit estimate is raised by an underlying £16 million to £75 million.

A stock overhang, said to involve 10 million shares, saw **Tesco** slide 5½p to 285½p, on volume of 13.7 million shares, but **Asda Group** rose 4¾p to 109½p, on volume of 16.5 million shares as some sizeable buyers emerged.

Among banks, SBC sell advice saw **Barclays** fall 9p to 742p, while SBC buy advice helped **NatWest** firm 3p to 652p. **HSBC**, which owns Midland, added 17½p to 998½p after overnight rises on the Hong Kong market.

Shares in Vaux Group, the north-east England brewing to Swallow Hotels and nursing homes group, rose 4p to 257p on market whispers that Wolverhampton & Dudley, 5p firmer at 582p, or Bass, 7½p stronger at 700p, may be interested in the company, which is presently capitalised at about £360 million.



BAT Industries gained 10p to 554p in spite of news that BAT and Brown & Williamson, its US subsidiary, are among six tobacco industry giants targeted in a $1 billion lawsuit filed by Massachusetts state government.

Enterprise Oil was 11p higher to 389p on news of a significant oil discovery in the Danish sector of the North Sea. It said preliminary estimates indicated this might be the largest Danish oil find since the Skjold field in 1977.

It was the turn of **Cala**, the housebuilding and commercial property group, to issue a profits warning. The shares fell 24p to 87p as analysts downgraded their forecasts after Cala said that a weak housing market would hit profits. Credit Lyonnais Laing cut its profit forecast for the year to June 1996 from £7 million to £4.1 million.

Caverdale Group, the motor dealer, eased ¼p to 11½p in spite of stake-building by Murmoom Investments, a company controlled by Abdullah Hassan al-Rostamani and Abdul Wahed al-Rostamani, two brothers who have motor and banking interests in the United Arab Emirates. In a move that raised £1.68 million for Caverdale, the brothers acquired 12 million shares at 14p, lifting their stake to 9.5 per cent.

Crown Products Group, the leisure products company, had a good first day after relisting on the Alternative Investment Market following the completion of two acquisitions and a private placing. The shares ended at 57p, compared with a pre-suspension price of 45p.

□ **GILT-EDGED**: The market failed to hold on to early gains inspired by a rise in US Treasuries after the cut in American rates. The March long gilt future ended seven ticks higher at £110, on volume of 27,000 contracts traded. Among conventional stocks, shorts gained about £⅛, while longer-dated issues rose by up to £¼ and index-linked by up to £¼.

□ **NEW YORK**: Wall Street shares remained buoyed at midday by the rate cut. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 27.82 points to 5,137.71.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5137.71 (+27.82)
S&P Composite	613.89 (+1.96)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	19445.59 (+308.10)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9877.86 (+172.00)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	480.61 (+8.10)
Sydney:	
AO	2199.50 (+16.70)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2262.07 (+26.45)
Singapore:	
Straits	2227.17 (+39.83)
Brussels:	
General	8271.54 (+18.20)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1831.20 (+20.99)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	702.60 (+9.10)
London:	
FT 30	2633.0 (+38.7)
FT 100	3613.7 (+36.8)
FT-SE Mid 250	3980.1 (+22.7)
FT-SE-A 350	1795.2 (+16.6)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1463.89 (+13.40)
FT A All-Share	1769.2 (+15.42)
FT Non Financials	1867.55 (+17.93)
FT Fixed Interest	114.32 (+0.01)
FT Govt Secs	95.65 (+0.12)
Bargains	27440
SEAQ Volume	894.0m
USM (Datastrm)	187.11 (+0.29)
US$	1.5380 (-0.0055)
German Mark	2.2196 (+0.0036)
Exchange Index	82.9 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1800
£:SDR	1.0372
RPI	149.8 Nov (3.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.8 Nov (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

CMG (290)	326	- 1
Cash Converters Intl	24	...
Century Inns	119	+ ½
Com de Part Fin	510	...
Cortworth (150)	151	...
Cox Insurance	110	...
Crown Products	57	...
Dmatek	81	...
East Surrey NV	448	...
Finsb Tech Tst (100)	102	...
Gardner (L)	134	...
Gearhouse Gp (200)	202	...
Jasmin	83	...
Manx & O'seas	25	...
Martin Curr Jap	98½	+ 2
Martin Curr Jap Wts	37	+ 2
National Grid (204)	200½	+ 1½
Peptide Thrptcs (200)	229	- 1
Pet City	380	+ 15
Polymasc Pharms	127	- 2
Revelation Picc	100	...
Rushmere Wynne	3¼	- ¼
Trocadero	47	- 1
Viewinn	130	...
Wilmington	66	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Dnloe Hse n/p (Ir10p)	1½	...
Melrose n/p (34)	6	+ 1¼
Roxspur n/p (3)	¼	...
TBI n/p (50)	3	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Anagen	76p (+19p)
Filtronic Com	433p (+38p)
Stagecoach	315p (+22p)
Gen Accident	651p (+28p)
Scoba	544p (+19p)
ICI	758p (+25p)
Booker	350p (+11p)
Enterprise	389p (+11p)
FALLS:	
El Data Prc	115p (-17p)
MAID	213p (-10p)
Rolnco	475p (-15p)
Mitel	406p (-8p)
Barclays	742p (-9p)
Robeco	450p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

Buses make good trains

EVERY little boy wants to own a railway, but few dads were prepared to pay for such a costly toy. As with all the privatisations deemed to be "difficult" to sell, the Government has played it safe. Fearing a dearth of plausible candidates and an embarrassing defeat, the franchise director has given the new operators every financial reason to invest.

There are no precedents on which to value such a business, but, on the basis of some bare figures issued yesterday, Stagecoach has snapped up another cash-generative operation that could make a very handsome profit in a couple of years.

For the private sector, the key attraction of owning a passenger rail franchise is to get your hands on the cash flow. Much of that comes as pre-payments for season tickets, and analysts reckon that Stagecoach will inherit some £48 million of cash when it takes over the South West Trains (SWT) franchise, providing a very useful reduction in the bus company's gearing. Unlike the Great Western consortium, which is spending £30 million on new rolling stock, Stagecoach has made few commitments to invest in the infrastructure of the network. A guaranteed income from a monopoly rail franchise, low investment levels and a £55 million subsidy from the Government all add up to huge positive cash flow. Stagecoach should also make a profit by cutting costs and manipulating the fare structure. Only 47 per cent of revenue from SWT will be regulated. There are forecasts of a £12 million contribution from SWT in 1998, and, on the figures released yesterday, the main risk will be Labour Party ire that the franchisees were given a free ride.

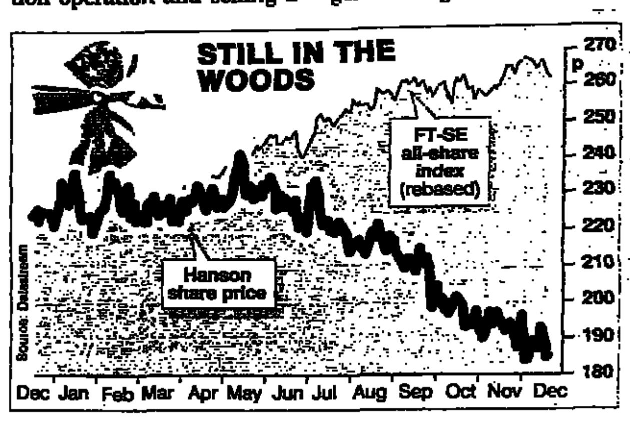
Hanson

HANSON promised £2 billion of disposals within a year when it reported its full-year figures earlier this month. Lo and behold, the conglomerate yesterday announced plans to sell Cavenham Forest Industries and float a majority stake in Suburban Propane, with estimates that both transactions will yield £1.5 billion. Add to that the sale of the National Grid stake and Hanson will have bagged its £2 billion.

Hanson has a good record in achieving disposal objectives, but it may have a struggle achieving the full target proceeds.

The sale of Cavenham could potentially be more difficult. A buyer for the entire 1.75 million acres of forest is unlikely and Hanson will probably sell the business piecemeal to neighbouring competitors seeking to expand their holdings. Unfortunately for Hanson, timber prices have eased after two years of sharp increases, with a 14 per cent fall in southern lumber.

The market is unlikely to give Hanson any reward for spinning a mature distribution operation and selling a natural resource industry off the peak of its cycle. After the disposals Hanson will be left with a chemical business on a downward trend, some mature consumer businesses and coal and electricity. US investors have been buying Hanson, attracted by the yield of almost 8 per cent, but the portfolio does not suggest much growth is in store.



Inchcape

INSURANCE brokers are not flavour of the month and Inchcape does not need to sell Bain Hogg, so the trading group is wise to wait before it launches Bain Hogg on the stock market.

The continued pressure on insurance premiums has not crippled the profitability of brokers but it is keeping a lid on share prices. Were Bain Hogg to be sold or floated, it would probably fetch about £200 million — based on the market's valuation of its nearest competitor, Lowndes Lambert.

The latter's shares trade on a prospective multiple of around 8.5 times earnings, which, if applied to Bain Hogg, would put a price of £160 million on the broker. However, Lowndes' market value is equivalent to more than 100 per cent of its brokerage income. On that basis, Bain Hogg would be worth more than £200 million.

Inchcape's subsidiary is well-placed to benefit from a pick up in insurance premiums. In bringing Bain Clarkson and Hogg Group together, Inchcape was able to cut costs and improve its management. A flotation in two years might coincide with an upswing in the insurance cycle, and Inchcape could well find itself in a position to choose between a flotation or a trade sale at a more sensible price than is being offered today.

Claremont

MOST of the bad news from Claremont Garments yesterday was clearly in the share price. The shares scarcely moved with the news that full-year profits would be unchanged from last year's level of £15 million.

Claremont's share price suffered a pounding in the second half of the year as investors correctly surmised that the bad news from retailers on the high street would soon take its toll on the upstream textiles industry.

Warm weather in the Autumn kept consumers away from knitwear and winter clothing. While Claremont benefited from late demand for dresses, it suffered from weak demand for winter coats, a market for which Claremont is Britain's largest supplier.

Claremont is regarded as one of the better plays in the rag trade. It supplies more than 90 per cent of its output to Marks and Spencers and has the highest operating margins of any M&S supplier. That position is both a strength and a weakness. Unless consumer spending picks up M&S will be demanding more from its suppliers. If Claremont wishes to keep those margins it may have to seek lower cost solutions offshore. As a result, the positive outlook for 1996 remains intact. Given this, Claremont's shares are fairly priced.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	882-860	Mar	1005-1003
Mar	912-911	May	1014-1013
May	933-932	Jul	unq
Jul	951-950	Sep	
Sep	969-968		
Dec	989-985	Volume:	3226

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	2100-2095	Sep	1595-1580
Mar	1780-1779	Nov	1595-1585
May	1670-1669	Jan	1590-1580
Jul	1621-1620	Volume:	3727

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	306.5-305.8
Spot. 368.1		Dec	301.5-300.3
Mar	349.0-48.2	Mar	301.5-300.1
May	339.5-38.8	May	302.5-300.7
Aug	331.0-30.3	Volume:	1124

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 19

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	114.64	116.10	120.84
(+/-)	+5.72	-0.79	+1.75
Eng/Wales:	115.40	117.22	118.51
(+/-)	+6.08	-0.66	+2.06
(%)	+3.0	-21.0	-22.0
Scotland	102.99	111.83	126.92
(+/-)	-1.01	-0.77	+0.99
(%)	-18.0	-12.0	-23.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.00	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Feb)	17.80	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.45	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.95	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.60	+0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 176 (n/c)	O: 178 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	178 (+1)	181 (+3)
Non EEC 1H Jan	176 (n/c)	178 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Feb	173 (+2)	175 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	100 (-1)	103 (+1)
Naphtha	160 (-2)	162 (-2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	172.25-72.50	Apr	160.00-60.25
Feb	169.00-69.25	May	157.25-57.50
Mar	164.25-64.75		Vol: 12804

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	17.79-17.80	May	n/a
Mar	17.41 BID	Jun	16.65-16.69
Apr	17.13 SLR		Vol: 22042

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	124.50	Jan	114.50
Mar	126.50	Mar	116.60
May	128.50	May	119.25
Jul	130.50	Sep	109.25
Sep	113.00	Nov	111.25
Volume: 396		Volume: 104	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	270.0
Apr	238.0	237.0
May	unq	275.0
		Volume: 101

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 106.75-107.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 96	1585	1570	1586
Feb 96	1520	1513	1528
Apr 96	1530	1508	1520
Oct 96	1435	1435	1435
Vol: 49 lots			Open Interest: 3811

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LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2850.0-2855.0	2705.0-2707.0	2913850
Lead ($/tonne)	711.50-712.00	707.50-708.50	357150
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1007.0-1007.5	1032.0-1032.5	674200
Tin ($/tonne)	6230.0-6235.0	6250.0-6255.0	30185
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1655.5-1656.0	1684.0-1684.5	1632800
Nickel ($/tonne)	8065.0-8070.0	8180.0-8190.0	91194

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Dom.	500	25	41½	48½	3	11	18
(*520)	550	2½	19½	23	31	36½	44½
Argyll	300	18½	29½	33½	2½	8	14
(*315)	330	3½	13½	18	17½	22½	29½
ASDA	100	11	14	17½	1	4	5½
(*109½)	110	4½	8½	12	4½	8½	10
Boots	550	38½	45	52½	3½	10½	20
(*573½)	600	4	17½	26	29	35½	45
Br Airways	460	16	30½	38½	7	14½	22
(*467½)	500	2	12½	19½	33½	37½	44
BP	500	31	40½	47½	2	8½	13
(*527½)	550	3	13½	21½	24	32	36½
Br Steel	140	12½	16½	19½	1	3½	8
(*150½)	160	2	6½	9	10½	13½	18½
C & W	420	35	49	57½	2	9½	16
(*450½)	460	10½	26	35	17½	26	33½
CU	600	33½	48	55½	5½	22½	27
(*625)	650	7	21½	30½	29	50	54½
ICI	750	21	35½	48	11½	33	39½
(*755½)	800	4	15½	26½	45½	66	70½
Kingfishr.	500	36	50½	55	2½	13	20½
(*532½)	550	7	22½	29	23½	37½	46
Land Sec.	550	51	62½	68½	0	3	10
(*598½)	600	10½	26½	33	10	17½	30
M & S	420	17	28½	34½	4	9	16
(*431)	460	1½	10	15½	29½	32	38
Nat West.	650	18½	31½	44	13½	36½	43
(*651)	700	3	14½	24½	49½	70½	75½
Sainsbury	360	17	28	33	3	8½	15
(*372½)	390	4	12½	17½	19	23½	30
Shell	800	46½	59½	65½	1	12½	16
(*842)	850	10	26	34½	16	33	37½
Smkl Bch.	650	30	45	59	5½	17	23½
(*671)	700	6½	21	34½	32	43	49
Storehse	330	11	20½	27½	8	13½	18½
(*331)	360	2	8	14½	29½	32	35½
Trafalgar	20	4	6½	7	1	2½	3½
(*22½)	25	1½	4½	5½	3½	5½	6½
Unilever.	1300	26	53½	68	13	35	44
(*1310½)	1350	7	29	43½	64	72	
Zeneca	1200	44½	78	100	18½	49½	62½
(*1222½)	1250	20	52½	74½	43½	76	86½
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Grnd Met.	420	24½	35	44½	11½	16	22½
(*440)	460	8	16½	26	34	38½	44
Ladbroke	140	17	20	25½	6	11	13
(*149½)	160	8	11½	17	16	22	24
Utd Bisc	240	22	26	29	4½	10	12½
(*254½)	260	10½	15½	19	13	20½	23

Series		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	460	36½	46	55	0½	5½	10½
(*493½)	500	9	22½	30	12½	19½	25½
Thames W	550	19	37½	45½	9	18	32½
(*557½)	600	3	17	23½	43	47½	63
Series		**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
BAT Ind	550	25½	33	41	15	29½	38
(*553½)	600	8½	14½	22	48	63	69½
BTR	300	24	27	32	2	7½	10
(*318½)	330	6½	10	16½	14½	23½	25½
Br Aero	750	39½	53½	72½	22	35½	45½
(*758)	800	17½	31½	49	51	64	73
Br Telcm	330	18½	25½	32½	7	9½	17½
(*345½)	360	5½	12	18	25½	26½	34
Cadbury	500	39	44½	55	9½	22	27
(*523½)	550	16	21	32	34½	49	53½
Guinness	420	45	50½	54½	2½	8	11½
(*458½)	460	16	24	30½	13	24	27½
GEC	300	33½	39½	44	1	3½	7
(*329)	330	11½	19	24½	0½	13	18½
Hanson	180	12	14	16	3½	5½	7½
(*188)	191	5½	—	—	9	—	—
LASMO	160	18½	22	27	2	5	7
(*174½)	180	6½	10½	16	10	13	16
Lucas	160	22	25½	28½	1	3	5
(*179)	180	8½	13½	17	7	10½	12½
Pilkingtn	191	16½	23	26½	3½	5	9
(*203)	210	6½	12	16½	12½	13½	18
Prudential	390	34½	39	46½	6½	14	19
(*415)	420	17	22	31	16½	28½	33
Redland	360	31	39½	43½	5	12½	16
(*382½)	390	13	22½	27	17	27½	30½
R-Royce	160	20½	23	27	1½	4½	6
(*177½)	180	7½	11	16	8	13	15
Tesco	280	15	19½	24	7	12½	15½
(*285½)	300	6	10	15	18	24	26½
Vodafone	220	14½	21	26	9	12	14½
(*223)	240	6	12½	17	20½	23	25½
Williams	300	27	32	34	1½	6½	8½
(*322½)	330	8	13½	17	12½	20½	22½

FT-SE INDEX (*3612)

	3500	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750
Calls						
Jan	124	84	52	26½	12	4½
Feb	149½	111½	79½	54	33	18½
Mar	166½	131½	99	74½	51½	35½
Apr	175	144	114	90½	67	51½
Jun	211½	—	149	—	97	—
Puts						
Jan	12	24	42	67½	104	149½
Feb	26	38½	57	82	113	152
Mar	42	57	75	100½	129	164
Apr	62½	80½	100½	126	152½	187½
Jun	92½	—	127½	—	174	—

Series		Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
Abby Nat	600	22½	44½	54½	0	22	32½
(*622½)	650	0	19½	31	27½	50	60
Amstrad	200	17½	25	32	0	5½	8
(*217½)	220	0	13½	21	2½	14	16½
Barclays	700	42	60½	68½	0	15½	23½
(*742)	750	0	29	41	8	39	47½
Blue Circ	300	26½	35	38	0	4½	11½
(*326½)	330	0	10½	21	3½	16	25
Br Gas	240	10	20	23½	0	8	13
(*250)	260	0	9½	13½	10	17½	23½
Dixons	390	29½	42½	52	0	8	13
(*419½)	420	0	25	34½	0½	19½	25½
Forte	300	24½	33	37	0	4½	7
(*324½)	330	0	14½	17	5½	13	20
Tarmac	100	6	11	14	0	4	7½
(*106)	110	0	6	9	4	8	13
Hillsdwn	160	0½	9	10½	0	7	13
(*160½)	180	0	3	4½	19½	20½	27½
Lonrho	160	21	24	27	0	1½	3½
(*181)	180	1	10	14½	0	8½	11
Sears	100	0½	6	8	0	4	6
(*100½)	110	0	2½	4	9½	10½	12½
Thrn Emi	1500	27½	79	115½	0	39½	51½
(*1527½)	1600	0	34½	67½	72½	97½	106
Tomkins	260	11	19	25½	0	7½	10
(*271)	280	0	9	15½	9	17	20
TSB	390	0	9	17	0	26	27½
(*390)	420	0	0½	5½	30	46	48½
Series		**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
Glaxo Well	850	45	63½	78	6	25	34
(*885½)	900	15	35	51½	25	49½	59½
HSBC	950	60	85	99	6½	32½	42½
(*999½)	1000	27½	55½	71½	23	55½	65½
Reuter	550	37½	52½	63	3	16	21
(*583½)	600	8½	25½	37	23½	39	44½
Series		**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Jul**
Royal Ins	360	23	34½	41½	3½	18	23
(*377½)	390	7½	19½	27½	17	34½	39½
Series		**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Fisons	360	5	9½	10½	0	0½	0½
(*265)	280	0	0	0	15	15	15
Series		**Feb**	**May**		**Feb**	**May**	
Eastern Gp	950	26½	36½	—	0½	0½	—
(*972½)	1000	0½	3½	—	33½	33	—
Series		**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Natl Pwr	420	27	39	51	0	5	13½
(*447)	460	0	17	29	13	21	32½
Scot Pwr	360	2½	14½	23½	0	14½	17
(*362½)	390	0	5½	11	27½	34½	36

December 20, 1995 Tot:27741 Call:17853 Put:9888 FT-SE Call:3689 Put:3609

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 96	3610.0	3635.0	3604.0	3627.0	8216
Previous open interest: 65345	Jun 96				3628.0	0
FT-SE 250	Mar 96				3980.0	0
Previous open interest: 3315	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Dec 95	93.46	93.47	93.45	93.45	4817
Previous open interest: 400358	Mar 96	93.81	93.83	93.79	93.80	18167
	Jun 96	93.98	94.00	93.93	93.94	11353
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96				94.67	0
Previous open interest: 0	Jun 96					0
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 96	96.42	96.42	96.38	96.39	17340
Previous open interest: 918906	Jun 96	96.51	96.51	96.47	96.49	12237
Long Gilt	Dec 95	110-14	110-17	110-11	110-12	210
Previous open interest: 149953	Mar 96	110-06	110-07	109-28	110-00	27454
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	121.43	121.53	121.43	121.47	1266
	Jun 96	120.03	120.05	120.01	120.03	235
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 96	99.11	99.12	98.70	98.83	81188
Previous open interest: 212912	Jun 96	98.18	98.18	98.08	98.16	446
Three month ECU	Mar 96	94.94	94.95	94.92	94.93	481
Previous open interest: 16940	Jun 96				95.04	0
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 96	98.25	98.25	98.20	98.23	1326
Previous open interest: 41442	Jun 96	98.27	98.27	98.24	98.26	364
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 96	106.25	106.44	105.98	106.30	17771
Previous open interest: 50322	Jun 96				105.90	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6½: Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 6½ Week fixed: 6½

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⁵⁄₁₆ ; 3 mth 6⁵⁄₁₆ . Sell: 2 mth 6¼ ; 3 mth: 6¼ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6¹¹⁄₃₂-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¼-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6½-6⅛	6½-6⅛	6½-6⅛	6¹¹⁄₃₂-6⅛	6¼-6⅛
Interbank:	6½-6⅛	6½-6⅛	6½-6⅛	6¹¹⁄₃₂-6⅛	6¼-6⅛

Overnight: open 6¼, close 6¼ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6½-6⅛	6¹¹⁄₃₂-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¹¹⁄₃₂-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6⅛	6¼-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.68	n/a	5.57	5.45	5.42
Building Society CDs:	6½-6⅛	6½-6⅛	6½-6⅛	6¹¹⁄₃₂-6⅛	6¼-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅞-5¾	5⅞-5¾	5⅞-5¾	5¾-5⅝	5⅞-4¾
Deutschemark:	3⅞-3¾	4⅛-3⅞	3⅞-3¾	3¹¹⁄₁₆-3⅝	4⅛-3¾
French Franc:	5⅝-4¹³⁄₁₆	5⅝-4¹³⁄₁₆	5⅝-5⅛	5⅞-5⅛	5⅞-4¾
Swiss Franc:	1¹³⁄₁₆-1¹¹⁄₁₆	2⅛-2	2-1⅞	1⅞-1¾	2-1
Yen:	⅜-¼	½-⅜	½-⅜	½-⅜	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $387.00-387.30 Close: $387.65-388.15 High: $388.00-388.50 Low: $386.80-387.30 AM: $387.10 PM: $387.60

Krugerrand: $387.00-389.00 (£251.00-253.00)

Platinum: $405.25 (£263.50) Silver: $5.16 (£3.345) Palladium: $128.25 (£83.40)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 20	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4800-2.4877	2.4800-2.4833	¼-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Brussels	45.47-45.67	45.47-45.57	12-9pr	32-27pr
Copenhagen	8.5770-8.6180	8.5770-8.5990	1⅛-⅛pr	3⅛-2⅛pr
Dublin	0.9667-0.9702	0.9676-0.9702	9-6pr	25-20pr
Frankfurt	2.2139-2.2214	2.2139-2.2170	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Lisbon	231.90-232.93	231.90-232.52	29-56ds	97-141ds
Madrid	187.65-188.54	187.65-187.94	41-51ds	123-140ds
Milan	2445.40-2458.80	2445.40-2449.40	8-9ds	24-26ds
Montreal	2.1002-2.1147	2.1002-2.1032	0.17-0.09pr	0.29-0.18pr
New York	1.5364-1.5404	1.5364-1.5374	0.11-0.09pr	0.32-0.29pr
Oslo	9.7760-9.8180	9.7760-9.7910	⅛-⅛ds	⅛-⅛ds
Paris	7.6010-7.6440	7.6100-7.6240	1⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2pr
Stockholm	10.2000-10.2680	10.2000-10.2230	⅛-⅛ds	⅛-⅛ds
Tokyo	156.66-157.16	156.66-156.93	1⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Vienna	15.57-15.64	15.58-15.61	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-⅛pr
Zurich	1.7752-1.7858	1.7760-1.7788	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-1⅛pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3482-1.3491
Austria	10.14-10.15
Belgium (Com)	29.61-29.65
Canada	1.3703-1.3708
Denmark	5.5890-5.5920
France	4.9590-4.9605
Germany	1.4417-1.4424
Hong Kong	7.7330-7.7360
Ireland	1.5872-1.5892
Italy	1590.89-1591.39
Japan	101.85-101.95
Malaysia	2.5430-2.5440
Netherlands	1.6144-1.6154
Norway	6.3700-6.3759
Portugal	151.10-151.20
Singapore	1.4140-1.4150
Spain	122.37-122.42
Sweden	6.6384-6.6484
Switzerland	1.1580-1.1590

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5384-1.5410
Australia dollar	2.0737-2.0775
Bahrain dinar	0.5740-0.5860
Brazil real*	1.4927-1.4968
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.6980-0.7080
Finland markka	6.6450-6.7610
Greece drachma	363.50-370.50
Hong Kong dollar	11.8980-11.9103
India rupee	53.33-54.29
Indonesia rupiah	3482.00-3550.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4555-0.4655
Malaysia ringgit	3.9127-3.9167
New Zealand dollar	2.3566-2.3599
Pakistan rupee	52.60 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5375-5.6615
Singapore dollar	2.1756-2.1785
S Africa rand (com)	5.5950-5.6970
U A E dirham	5.5875-5.7115

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	703	Legal & Gn	2,100
ASDA Gp	16,000	Lloyds Bk	3,300
Abbey Ntl	3,200	Marks Spr	3,900
Allied Dom	3,900	NatWst Bk	13,000
Argos	1,300	Nat Grid	15,000
Argyll Gp	3,400	Nat Power	5,500
AB Foods	593	NW Water	1,600
BAA	2,200	P & O	1,300
BAT Inds	4,800	Pearson	1,400
BOC	948	Pilkington	2,800
BP	7,000	PowerGen	2,500
BSkyB	1,900	Prudential	2,600
BTR	21,000	REXAM	2,500
BT	11,000	RMC	768
Bk of Scot	5,200	RTZ	1,100
Barclays	8,600	Rank Org	2,800
Bass	2,000	Reckitt Col	913
Blue Circle	3,800	Redland	1,800
Boots	2,400	Reed Intl	1,200
BAe	2,100	Rentokil	2,400
BA	4,600	Reuters	3,500
Brit Gas	36,000	Rolls Royce	7,300
Brit Steel	7,500	Royal Ins	1,500
Burmah Cstl	1,700	Ryl Bk Scot	4,200
Burton	3,900	Sainsbury	3,700
Cable Wire	3,400	Schroders	163
Cadbury	4,300	Scot & New	931
Carlton Cms	596	Scot Power	1,800
Cm Union	1,600	Svrn Trent	1,300
Cookson	8,600	Shell Trans	5,100
Courtaulds	2,700	Siebe	1,500
Enterpr Oil	1,800	SmKl Bch	3,400
For & Col IT	1,600	Smith Nph	4,000
Forte	9,100	Smiths Inds	1,100
GKN	865	Sthern Elec	687
GRE	1,800	Std Chartd	4,000
GUS	3,300	Sun Allnce	1,900
Gen Acc	2,600	TI Gp	5,600
Gen Elec	7,900	TSB	5,900
Glaxo Well	7,400	Tate & Lyle	1,100
Granada	2,800	Tesco	13,000
Grand Met	3,300	Thames W	1,300
Guinness	2,500	Thrn EMI	1,500
HSBC	3,700	Tomkins	5,000
Hanson	17,000	Unilever	3,400
ICI	3,100	Vodafone	10,000
Kingfisher	2,000	Whitbread	503
LASMO	1,900	Wlms Hld	2,400
Ladbroke	2,300	Wolseley	1,500
Land Secs	1,100	Zeneca	2,400

WALL STREET

	Dec 20 midday	Dec 19 close
AMP Inc	38¼	39
AMR Corp	76¼	74¼
AT & T	66	66
Abbott Labs	41	40¼
Advanced Micro	17¼	17½
Aetna Life	71½	70¼
Ahmanson (HF)	26¼	26¼
Air Prod & Chem	54¼	53¼
AirTouch Comm	27¼	26¼
Alberto-Culver B	35¼	36
Albertson's	33¼	33¼
Alcan Alumnm	32¼	32
Alco Standard	45¼	46
Allied Signal	48¼	47¼
Alum Co of Am	56¼	56¼
Amax Gold Inc	7¼	7¼
Amerada Hess	52	51
Amer Brands	44¼	44¼
Amer El Power	40¼	40¼
Amer Express	41¼	41¼
Amer Genl Corp	34¼	34
Amer Home Pr	94¼	96¼
Amer Intl	94½	94¼
Amer Stores	26¼	26¼
Amer Standard	30¼	30¼
Ameritech	59	59
Amoco	71	70¼
Anheuser-Busch	66¼	66¼
Apple Computer	33¼	32¼
Archer Daniels	17¼	17¼
Armco	5¼	5¼
Armstrng Wrld	62¼	62¼
Asarco	31½	32¼
Ashland Oil	35¼	35¼
Atl Richfield	112	110¼
Auto Data Pro	71	70¼
Avery Dennison	47¼	47¼
Avon Products	76¼	76¼
Baker Hughes	24½	24
Baltim Gas & El	28	27¼
Banc One	38	38¼
BankAmerica	65¼	64¼
Bank of NY	47¼	47¼
Bankers Tr NY	67¼	67¼
Barnett Banks	58¼	58¼
Bausch & Lomb	39¼	39¼
Baxter Intl	41¼	42
Bectn Dicknsn	72¼	72¼
Bell Atlantic	67¼	67¼
Bell Industries	22¼	21¼
BellSouth	43¼	43¼
Black & Decker	33¼	33¼
Block (H&R)	41¼	41¼
Boeing	80	75¼
Boise Cascade	33¼	32¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	84¼	84¼
Browning Ferris	28¼	28¼
Brunswick	22¼	21¼
Burlington Nthn	77¼	75
CNA Financial	114	113½
CPC Intl	70¼	71¼
CSX	88¼	87¼
Campbell Soup	60	60¼
Can Pacific	17¼	17¼
Cptl Cities ABC	123¼	123
Carolina Pwr	34	34¼
Caterpillar	60¼	60¼
Central & SW	27¼	28¼
Champion Intl	40¼	40¼
Chase Manhat	60¼	60¼
Chemical Bk	59¼	59
Chevron Corp	51¼	50¼
Chrysler	55¼	53¼
Chubb Corp	97¼	98¼
Cigna Corp	105¼	106
Citicorp	67¼	66¼
Clorox	75¼	74¼
Coastal Corp	36¼	36¼
Coca Cola	76¼	77¼
Colgate-Palmolive	71¼	72¼
Columbia Gas	43¼	43¼
ColumbiaHCA	51¼	50¼
Compaq Comp	49¼	49¼
Comp Ass Intl	58¼	60¼
Conagra	41¼	40¼
Conrail	69¼	69¼
Cons Edison	31	31¼
Cons Nat Gas	44¼	44¼
Cooper Inds	35	34¼
Corestates	37¼	38
Corning Inc	30¼	31¼
Crown Cork	41¼	40¼
Dana Corp	30	30
Dayton Hudson	73¼	73¼
Deere	35¼	34¼
Delta Air Lines	77¼	75¼
Deluxe Corp	27¼	27¼
Detroit Edison	34¼	34¼
Digital Equip	63¼	61¼
Dillard Dept St	28	27¼
Disney (Walt)	60¼	59¼
Dominion Res	41¼	41¼
Donelley (RR)	37	37
Dover Corp	36¼	36¼
Dow Chemical	70¼	69¼
Dow Jones	39¼	39¼
Dresser	24	23¼
Duke Power	47¼	47¼
Dun & Brdstreet	63¼	63¼
Du Pont	68¼	67¼

	Dec 20 midday	Dec 19 close
Eastman Kodak	66¼	66¼
Eaton Corp	54¼	54
Emerson Elec	78¼	77¼
Engelhard Corp	21¼	21¼
Enron Corp	38¼	38¼
Entergy	28¼	28¼
Ethyl Corp	12¼	12¼
Exxon	82¼	82
FMC Corp	71½	71½
FPL Group	46	46¼
Federal Express	72¼	73
Fed Nat Mtge	115¼	113¼
First Interstate	137¼	137¼
First Union Rlty	7	7
Fleet Finl Grp	42	41¼
Fluor Corp	65¼	64¼
Ford Motor	29¼	28¼
GTE Corp	44¼	44¼
Gannett	60¼	59¼
Gap Inc Del	43¼	44¼
Gen Dynamics	62	60¼
Gen Electric	71½	72
Gen Mills	57¼	58¼
Gen Motors	51¼	50¼
Gen Reinsurance	154¼	155
Gen Signal	31¼	31¼
Genuine Parts	41	41¼
Georgia Pac	67¼	67¼
Gillette	52¼	52
Glaxo Wellc ADR	27¼	27¼
Goodrich (BF)	66¼	67¼
Goodyear Tire	44¼	44¼
Grace (W&R)	59	58¼
Gt Atl Pac Tea	23¼	23¼
Great Wstn Fin	25¼	25¼
Halliburton	48¼	49¼
Harcourt General	42¼	41¼
Heinz (HJ)	33¼	34
Hercules	57¼	57¼
Hershey Foods	66¼	66¼
Hewlett Packard	84¼	84
Hilton Hotels	61¼	61
Home Depot	47	46¼
Homestake Mng	15¼	16
Honeywell	47¼	45½
Household Intl	58¼	57¼
Houston Inds	23¼	24¼
Humana	26¼	26
ITT Corp	49¼	117¼
Illinois Tool	58¼	58¼
Illinova	29¼	29¼
INCO	35	34¼
Ingersoll Rand	35¼	34¼
Inland Steel	24¼	25¼
Intel Corp	60¼	60½
IBM	90¼	91¼
Intl Flav & Fr	50¼	50¼
Intl Paper	37	37¼
James River Va	22¼	23¼
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	88	87
Kellogg	77¼	78¼
Kerr-McGee	59¼	59¼
Kimberly-Clark	77¼	76½
Kmart	5¼	6
Knight-Ridder	63¼	63½
Lilly (Eli)	103	103¼
Limited Inc	17	17¼
Lincoln Nat	53¼	52¼
Litton	43	42¼
Liz Claiborne	28¼	28¼
Lockheed Martin	77¼	76¼
Louisiana Pac	23¼	23¼
MCI Comm	27¼	26¼
Marriott Intl	37¼	37¼
Marsh & McLnn	89¼	88¼
Masco Corp	30	29¼
May Dept St	43	43¼
Maytag Corp	19¼	20¼
McDonalds	45¼	44½
McDonnell D	90	88¼
McGraw Hill	85¼	85¼
Mead Corp	51¼	51¼
Medtronic	56¼	55¼
Mellon Bk	53½	53¼
Melville Corp	29¼	29¼
Merck Inc	63¼	63¼
Merrill Lynch	52¼	50¼
Microsoft	90¼	90¼
Minnesota Mine	67	67
Mobil Corp	112¼	109¼
Monsanto	119¼	117¼
Morgan (JP)	80¼	80¼
Motorola Inc	58¼	58¼
Natl Semi	23¼	22¼
Natl Service Ind	32¼	32
Navistar Intl	10¼	10¼
NY Times A	28¼	29
Newmont Mng	44	43¼
Ntag Mohawk	9¼	9¼
Nike B	64¼	63¼
NL Industries	12½	12¼
Norsm Energy	8¼	8¼
Nordstrom	41¼	40¼
Norfolk Sthrn	77¼	77½
Nthn State Pwr	48¼	49¼
Norwest Corp	34¼	34¼
Nynex Corp	50¼	50¼
Occidental Pet	21¼	20¼
Ohio Edison	23¼	23¼
Oracle	45¼	44¼

	Dec 20 midday	Dec 19 close
Oryx Energy Co	13¼	13¼
Owens Corning	44¼	44
PPG Industries	44¼	44¼
PNC Bank	29¼	28¼
PP&L Res	25¼	25¼
Paccar Inc	46¼	47
Pacificorp	21¼	21
Pac Enterprises	27¼	27¼
Pac Gas & Elect	28	28½
Pac Telesis	33¼	33¼
Pall Corp	25¼	26¼
Panhandle East	27¼	27¼
Parker Hannifin	34¼	34¼
Peco Energy	29¼	29¼
Penney (JC)	45¼	46
Pennzoil	43	41¼
Pepsico	56¼	57¼
Pfizer	62¼	63¼
Pharm & Upjhn	38¼	39
Phelps Dodge	62¼	63¼
Philip Morris	98¼	89¼
Phillips Pet	33½	33¼
Pitney Bowes	47¼	47¼
Polaroid	47¼	49
PriceCostco	14¼	14¼
Procter & Gmbl	83¼	84¼
Providian	41¼	41¼
Pub Serv E & G	30¼	30¼
Quaker Oats	35¼	36¼
Ralston Purina	64¼	65
Raychem Corp	56¼	56¼
Raytheon	45¼	45
Reebok Ind	26½	25¼
Reynolds Metals	56¼	55¼
Roadway Srvcs	49¼	49¼
Rockwell Intl	52¼	51¼
Rohm & Haas	60¼	61¼
Royal Dutch	136¼	135¼
Rubbermaid	25¼	25
SBC Comms	57¼	57¼
Safeco Corp	36¼	35¼
St Paul's Cos	56¼	56¼
Salomon Inc	34¼	34½
Sara Lee Corp	32¼	33
Seecorp	16¼	17
Schering Plough	55¼	55
Schlumberger	69¼	68¼
Seagram	35¼	35¼
Sears Roebuck	40¼	39¼
Shell Trans	79¼	79
Sherwin Wllms	39¼	39¼
Skyline Corp	20¼	20
Snap-On-Tools	47¼	46¼
Southern Co	24½	24¼
Sprint Corp	40¼	40¼
Stanley Works	50	50¼
Sun Company	26¼	26¼
Sun Microsys	49¼	49¼
Suntrust	68	68¼
Supervalu	32¼	31¼
Sysco Corp	31½	31½
TRW Inc	75¼	75¼
TCC Inds	2¼	2¼
Tandem Comp	10¼	11¼
Tandy Corp	39	39¼
Teledyne	24¼	25¼
Temple Inland	43¼	43¼
Tenneco	47¼	47¼
Texaco	78	77¼
Texas Inst	49¼	50
Texas Utilities	40¼	40
Textron	72¼	71¼
Time Warner	37¼	37¼
Times-Mirror A	34	33¼
Timken	38¼	37¼
Torchmark	43¼	44
Toys R Us	22¼	22½
Transamerica	74¼	75
Travelers	59¼	59¼
Tribune	61	60¼
Tyco Labs	33¼	32½
UST Inc	34¼	35¼
UAL	200½	198¼
US Inds	16¼	16¼
USX Marathon	19¼	19¼
Unicom	32¼	33
Unilever NY	140¼	141½
Union Camp	46¼	46¼
Union Carbide	37¼	37¼
Union Pacific	65¼	65¼
Unisys Corp	5¼	5¼
USAIR Group	13¼	13¼
USF&G Corp	17¼	17¼
US Life	29	29¼
United Tech	93½	92½
Unocal Corp	29¼	28¼
VF Corp	52¼	52
WMX Tech	29	28¼
Wal-Mart Stores	23	23¼
Warner-Lambert	93	92¼
Wells Fargo	214	213¼
Westinghouse El	16¼	16¼
Weyerhaeuser	43	42¼
Whirlpool	52¼	53¼
Whitman	23¼	23¼
Winn Dixie	36¼	37
Woolworth	13¼	13¼
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	52¼	52¼
Xerox	141	139¼
Yellow Corp	12¼	[illegible]

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Work and play — then sue

FOR those with the office party still to come, a word of caution. In a typical piece of killjoy legalism, an employment lawyer advises today that the Christmas party season is often followed in January by a blitz of writs, complaints and disciplinary action. According to Olga Aikin, an employment law specialist with the Aikin Driver Partnership: "The expectation may be of pleasure, but the reality may be an incident of sexual harassment, or a drink-drive problem on the way home."

If the party is an official one — and legally that means one tolerated by the management as well as organised by the firm — then the employer is responsible for everything that goes on there, she writes in today's issue of *People Management* magazine. "When party-goers are unable to look after themselves, the employer must take over," she says.

Coals to . . .

BRITISH companies have not lost their initiative. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, proudly announced record November exports to non-European countries yesterday. Some fine examples of beating the drum for Britain were Acer Snowmec Consultants of Telford, which designed and built an indoor real snow ski slope in Taiwan, Foster's Bakery in Barnsley, which exports baguettes to France, Anglo-Flora in Lincolnshire, which sells flower bulbs to The Netherlands and Festive Productions of Newport, Gwent, which manufactures blue Santas for export to Eastern Europe". The "blue" refers to the hue of the jewel-encrusted figures and to the colour of the coat Father Christmas wears in Russia.



Leeson: costly lager

Leeson Lager

FORMER colleagues of disgraced Barings Bank trader Nick Leeson are reported to have paid for the production of a new beer called Leeson Lager, which wags have dubbed "probably the world's costliest beer". Hong Kong's South China Brewery has been asked to produce 100 cases of the novelty 88888 reserve for clients and friends this Christmas. The 88888 refers to the account number used by Leeson to hide his trading losses. The label carries a picture of Leeson at Frankfurt Airport, where he was arrested by German police after fleeing Singapore in March.

Bid ceasefire

HENRY STAUNTON and Keith Hamill are not letting something minor like a hostile bid ruin their friendship. Recently, Staunton, finance director of Granada, has been doing his best to put Hamill, his counterpart at Forte, out of a job. Yesterday, they declared a brief ceasefire. The two met at a Panmure Gordon lunch in the City and, though they didn't sit next to each other, they exchanged greetings. Hamill even went so far as to give Staunton a Christmas gift of a book — *Hospitality Management. An Introduction.*

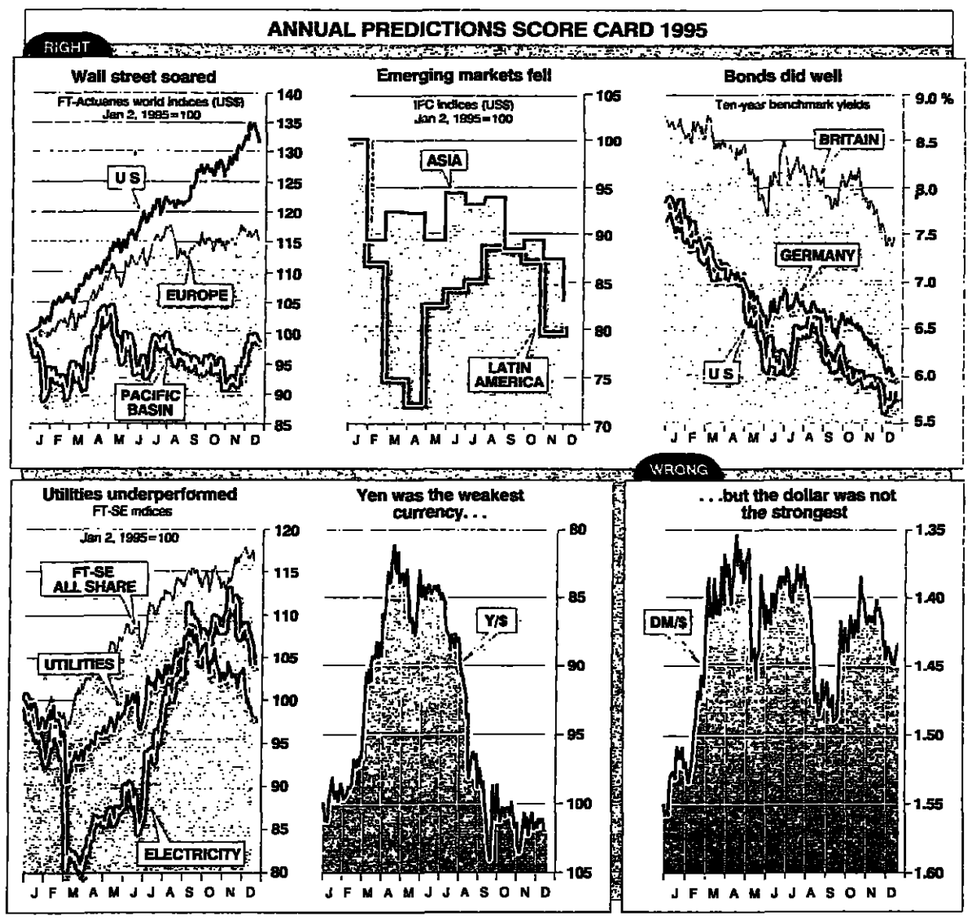
COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW — ANATOLE KALETSKY



Rash predictions are often the most accurate ones

Currency forecast could have been better but the case for backing Wall Street was overcautious



Last Christmas, in reviewing my annual predictions for 1994, I found to my distress that I had done better in predicting the gyrations of interest rates, currencies and stock markets than in understanding Government economic policy and the British business cycle. So when the time came to make some forecasts for 1995, I decided to confine myself entirely to financial markets. Now it is time to assess how these forecasts turned out.

On balance I was right to concentrate on finance. Most of the market moves I anticipated on January 12 did happen, at least in direction if not in magnitude. Unfortunately, however, anyone who backed my hunches with serious money would have suffered some hairy moments — and might have lost faith at exactly the point when the markets were starting to move the right way.

The clearest case of this was my prediction that the dollar would finally turn in 1995. It did turn in April. And it *will* end 1995 slightly stronger than it started, at least against the yen. But what a wild ride for a meagre profit of 5 per cent. Against the German mark, the Swiss and French francs and other "hard" currencies of Europe, the dollar has not yet even recovered to its January level, although it is well above the April lows.

Looking ahead, I am more confident than ever that the long-term trend in the dollar is now upwards, the yen will soon be down to Y120 against the dollar and the "hard" currencies of Europe are riding for an even bigger fall. But why has this process taken so long?

I can think of two answers. First, governments and central banks — first in Japan and now in Germany and France — have been amazingly slow to recognise the permanent damage that overvalued currencies were doing to their economies. Secondly, private investors have been amazingly slow to recognise the attractions of investing in the US. In time, however, even central bankers will learn economics and fund managers will learn about investment. Then, the dollar will really start to move. More on that in two weeks' time, when I consider the prospects for 1996.

Now let me turn from my failure on currencies to the markets where my analysis worked, at least to some degree. As usual the best prediction was the one which seemed rashest at the time.

While investment managers around the world, especially those based in London and Edinburgh, were predicting a 1987-style crash in US equity prices, I said it was time to buy Wall Street. While I argued that "multinationals and technology firms on the cutting edge of global growth" were attractive in most markets, I emphasised that "the best major market is the one that investors are now united in shunning: Wall Street". In the event, of course, US technology and multinational companies vastly outperformed all other shares.

In retrospect, my expectation of a 10 to 15 per cent gain, bold though it seemed at the time, was ridiculously overcautious. One of the reasons for this excessive caution was a misunderstanding of the psychology of the bond markets. I was right in predicting the direction of movement of interest rates, saying that the Federal Reserve Board's monetary tightening would be over by the summer (it cut interest for the first time since 1993 in June). I also foreseaw the reversal in commodity prices and the general easing of inflationary pressures — all of which pointed to a good year for bonds.

As in the equity market, however, I was not nearly brave enough. I thought that, after the bloodbath that bond investors had suffered in 1994, they would need a "period of healing" before they were ready for another bull run. Instead, the rally began immediately and has continued almost without interruption. Nevertheless, against the background of the bearish consensus of a year ago, my modest optimism seemed bold, especially on Wall Street.

> Anyone buying shares in emerging markets is taking a big risk

Why did I stick my neck out in favour of Wall Street in spite of the constant warnings from international fund managers that US shares were overvalued and riding for a fall? The reasons seem worth repeating, because they put in context the present mood among fund managers who are just as jaundiced today about American equities as they were a year ago.

In December 1994, a Merrill Lynch-Gallup survey showed that bears outnumbered bulls by a balance of 16 per cent when UK fund managers with control over more than £1,000 billion were asked which way Wall Street would move this year. Significantly, Wall Street was the *only* equity or bond market on which the fund managers were bearish. And curiously enough, the Merrill Lynch survey produced exactly the same balance of minus 16 per cent when fund managers were asked the same question in the first week of December this year: that was after 20 consecutive months in which these managers had wrongly been selling US shares.

Two of my reasons for optimism about Wall Street remain valid. Macroeconomics was extremely favourable in January: the world economy was still in the early stages of a long non-inflationary expansion, the US economy was about to enjoy a non-inflationary "soft landing" and fears of an imminent recession were completely misplaced. All this I believe still to be true — although the possibility of a local recession in the "hard currency" madhouse of continental Europe cannot now be so easily dismissed. Secondly, I thought that the biggest benefits from the global expansion would flow to companies with technological leadership and a worldwide reach. Most of these companies were based in America and obviously still are.

Thirdly, I pointed out that shares on Wall Street were *not* in fact overvalued if measured by the right yardsticks. In recent years, bonds have become extremely volatile, especially in real terms. Because bonds are more risky, they have to offer investors higher returns relative to shares than in the past. In addition, it is now more appropriate to value equities by the standards of the non-inflationary 1950s and 1960s than the unstable 1970s and 1980s. On this basis, too, equities a year ago looked cheap. Today, this is slightly less true. The price-earnings ratio on the S&P 500 index is now 19.1, against 18.3 a year ago. In this sense, most of the run-up in Wall Street was justified by growing profits.

There was one other argument for favouring Wall Street, which I did not recognise last year but now seems more relevant than ever. It explains my correct prediction in January that the ever-fashionable emerging markets would go on falling and accounts for my biggest blunder on equities — the idea that Italy was a good speculative buy. Shares in Wall Street ought to be much more highly valued than shares in emerging markets because America has a system of laws and financial practices to ensure that companies are run in the interests of shareholders. In places such as Korea or Brazil — never mind China and Russia — this is not true.

Anyone buying shares in such markets is taking a big "corporate governance" risk on top of all the usual hazards of equity investment. The same argument can be applied to equity investment in countries such as Italy and perhaps even France, where stock markets are rigged in favour of controlling "core" shareholders at the expense of passive investors. The dismal performance of the Italian stock market this year, in spite of the country's glowing economic fundamentals, could readily be explained by the antics of Mediobanca, the country's dominant merchant bank.

Finally, my one one political prediction. I said in January that the London stock market had not yet discounted a Labour victory. When it did, utility shares were bound to fall. So incompetent was John Major that he would "manage to give even privatisation a bad name". This political prediction requires no comment.

But, printing out the charts, I was intrigued to find that the financial analysis was not too far off the mark. In spite of all the takeovers in the electricity and water industries, utility shares have significantly underperformed the London market. Perhaps now the City really is ready for Labour. More of that on January 4.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Rebalancing British industry

From Emeritus Professor David Bell

Sir, The most important factor in the British economy (pointed out by Janet Bush, article December 2) is the rebalancing of British industry. The problem arises because John Major has chosen GDP as a measure of growth and this includes payments to our own citizens, eg for meals out or for any kind of personal service, from hairdressing to car servicing.

Figures for the various components of GDP in different countries are difficult to find, but there are some in UN Year Books of National Accounts, and taking account of national trends it is reasonable to suppose that Britain has a higher than average proportion of "internal" contributions to its GDP. So is the Government doing anything about it? First, is the "foresight initiative" in which technologists in industry and scientists in learned societies are asked to forecast which of a firm's product lines or which of the techniques at present available is likely to be the most profitable manufacturing industry in the near future. The Government is offering £40 million towards the cost of many conversions.

There is another scheme, not yet published, to get private capital more intimately associated with industry. It is not yet clear what is expected from this scheme, but any sign of interest in rebalancing British industry is to be welcomed.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BELL,
87 East End,
Walkington, Beverley.

Chance, the Bank and interest rates

From W. R. Armstrong

Sir, I note in today's edition (December 8) that, according to the Governor of the Bank of England, the Chancellor was "very fortunate" with his decision to cut interest rates earlier this year. The corollary must be therefore that Mr George was "unfortunate" in his reading of the financial situation. I find it surprising that, in the Bank of England, decisions on interest rates are a matter of chance — good fortune or bad fortune. I imagined in my naivety that correct decisions were made by a correct interpretation of the relevant financial indicators. Is this not what the Chancellor did?

Yours faithfully,
W. R. ARMSTRONG,
6 Strathalmond Court,
Edinburgh.

Feast of phrases in Forte defence

From A. P. Holland

Sir, City buffs used to takeover speak will not be surprised to read Forte's *Creating Value*, dated December 8 1995. But laymen like myself may be concerned to read that they may find themselves, at Little Chef, in the wrong "customer segment" to receive "new product offerings". They may, however, be delighted, as I am, to read that "McDonald's has already been successfully piloted and is being rolled out". Let's hope the roller is heavy.

Yours faithfully,
A. P. HOLLAND,
Oakfield,
Crossbush,
Arundel,
West Sussex.

Three-course meals for 1/6d

From Mr W. L. Abernethy

Sir, I can go back further than Lord Brightman (Business Letters, December 15).

In the summer of 1938, my wife and I spent a week in London. We had magnificent three-course meals at the Coventry Street Corner House for 1/6d.

Yours, also nostalgically,

W. L. ABERNETHY,
6 Thornhill Close,
Port Erin,
Isle of Man.

Identify 'selfish' fund manager

From Mr Benjamin Tobin

Sir, Your diary item (December 14) about the anonymous fund manager who downgrades Forte against Granada on the basis of whether they visit him or he visits them, stops short where others may have boldly trodden. I would not wish my money to be "protected" by someone who makes judgements on such a selfish basis. Be brave, think of your duty to readers and identify!

Yours faithfully,
BENJAMIN TOBIN
Strettons,
Central House,
189-203 Hoe Street, E17.

Banks' golden age

From Mr J. E. Humphrey

Sir, Bank, "temple of prudence"; manager, "pillar of rectitude" (Pennington, December 6).

"When?" in disbelief asks retired bank official T. Sales (*laboravit* 1931-1973) in Business Letters (December 15).

As a customer I can say in 1930, if not later.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. HUMPHREY,
9 Offington Gardens,
Worthing,
West Sussex.

Holiday concern

From Mr Richard J. Fleet

Sir, For once, Pennington is wrong. Nobody is suggesting that travel agents should be forced to market other companies' products.

If you go to Sainsbury's, their own brands will be clearly marked as such and so shoppers can make an informed decision.

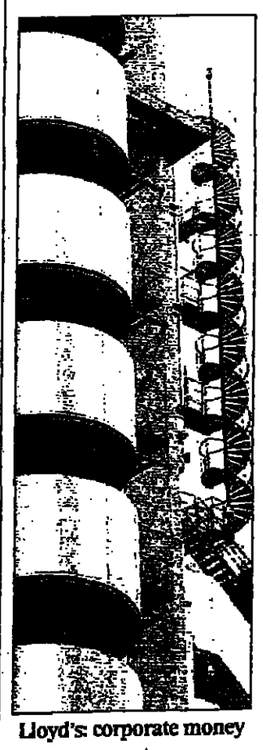
The complaint of the Consumer's Association is that holiday purchasers do not realise that they are purchasing own brands.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD J. FLEET,
144 Chiltern Park Avenue,
Berkhamsted,
Hertfordshire.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Agents at risk in the brave new world of Lloyd's

Tom Benyon forecasts frosty future for those watching over members' interests



Lloyd's: corporate money

The winds of change have reached hurricane strength in the Lloyd's market in the past four years. Along with the fortunes of some 8,000 names, many of the restrictive practices are being blown away as the market goes through its own noisy, but cathartic, Big Bang, and the changes are not yet over.

Names who are still solvent have been through a trial of fire. They have borne the brunt of the pain in past years and many have paid a fortune to cover losses: if they continue to participate, they are in no mood to see even more of their money go to subsidise the easy lifestyles of members' agents.

The days of the compliant, unquestioning name — the deferential vote — are consigned to history. Today's names evaluate the services they are being offered by the agents for the high price they are currently obliged to pay. In short, names are demanding that members' agents justify their fees.

In the modern Lloyd's, which prides itself on increasing efficiency to compete in the international marketplace, members' agents are finding it hard to justify charging £7,500 a year (for a name writing £1 million) for their increasingly irrelevant services. (A name writing £250,000 is charged £1,875 for the same service, and even that is far too much.)

What is the role of the members' agent? Their main task is to find their names high-quality underwriting capacity. However, names are finding that agents are simply unable to deliver what they are paid to do.

The managing agents, who run the syndicates, have learnt that unfettered growth of syndicate stamps can be counter-productive in a falling market; thus spare capacity on the best syndicates — created by other names obliged to resign because of losses or death — is not being allocated to the individual names, but is being clawed back to feed the managing agents' hearty appetite for corporate funds.

The political perception is that during the transition period, the individual name is important, but the reality is that, for the new market, corporate money is king. Corporate funds have two main attractions over the funds of traditional names.

Firstly, they come in large chunks and are easy to administer; secondly, corporate investors understand risk, and do not make public rows when they lose money. So the ineluctable conclusion is that, as more corporate money is invested, the declining influence of the traditional name is irreversible, with the power of the corporate wallet climbing in direct proportion to their decline. In the process, members' agents will find it ever harder to deliver individual name prime capacity on good syndicates.

The syndicate selection process, the next important function of the members' agents, appears to have been overtaken by the auction process. The management of funds — once again the role of agents — has been completely overtaken by a competent team that is run by the Corporation of Lloyd's at Chatham, Kent.



Benyon: critical of fees

Members' agents are meant to advise names what syndicates they should go on. However, informed names have limited confidence in the information that members' agents now supply. Some members' agents are perceived as having conflicts of interest in their relationships with the managing agents; others perch uncomfortably atop the nearest Chinese wall. Reliable and better-quality infomation than anything that agents can supply on syndicate selection and evaluation is available at modest cost from independent sources.

So the names ask why they should pay for their members' agents to sell stop-loss and Estate Protection Plan policies?

They receive additional commissions on the sales anyway, so why should they be paid twice for the same service?

Members' agents only other useful function is to collect fees owed to managing agents. Why should names pay for that? Managing agents should pay agents a commission for sums collected.

Surviving names are capable of looking after themselves; not all want "pooling arrangements" (Mapas), nor do many want to have the unrewarding status of corporate investor.

Times are changing and the names who provide all the risk capital want low fees and an efficient central administrative organisation to coordinate routine business with their various syndicates. This is a relatively easy function, most of which could be delegated to computer programmes providing direct interface with managing agents and syndicates.

Lloyd's staff at Chatham are more than capable of producing a central members' agency service to names who are prepared to buy and sell their capacity on syndicates through the process of auction.

So how can their fees be justified? The days where agency charges are based on gross underwriting capacity are over, and rightly so. Names now understand the truth behind the old saw that there is no such thing as a free lunch and many see the under-resourced members' agent for what he really is — the most expensive letter box in the City.

It is unlikely that members' agents will be able to offer substantial added value to the new-look sophisticated names and therefore their days of wine and roses may be numbered.

Tom Benyon is director of The Society of Names

ACCOUNTANCY

Try a festive fightback with tax-free giving

BY JOHN BROWN

THREE families were asked what they did on Christmas Eve. The first said they tried to get their excited children to bed, had a drink and made last-minute preparations. The second said they went to midnight Mass, while the third said they went to their now empty warehouse and sang *What a friend we have in Jesus*.

The Chancellor also appears to have an increasingly supportive friend in high places. The VAT that flows with the festive spirit into his coffers as a result of ever increasing volume of seasonal activities is enormous: both the sacred and the secular make their contribution. A record Christmas even before the sales have started.

Candles, traditionally used to throw light on the festivities are taxed, as is the once zero-rated fuel to warm the church. Alcoholic communion wine is taxed and so, presumably, is the non-alcoholic alternative that used to be zero-rated until the VAT (Beverages) Order took effect in 1993. Communion wafers are zero-rated and so is bread — both food of a kind used for human consumption, physical and spiritual. Charcoal, once zero-rated, is now taxed, along with incense, gold and myrrh.

Most Christmas-inspired expenditure is taxed. Most gifts, Christmas cards and calendars, wrapping paper, toys, festive beverages and gingerbread men with their heads dipped in chocolate to simulate hair are taxed. But the gingerbread woman, with her blonde hair simulated by caramel, escapes taxation.

Take the family to see the *Nutcracker* and you will be taxed at 17.5 per cent on the admission charge, but the programme will be zero-rated. Slip a copy of *Playboy* into your husband's Christmas stocking and you will have given him a zero-rated gift and created love in a cold climate.

Most of the ingredients and accompaniments to the turkey will be zero-rated as well as



Brown: "buy wisely"

the bird itself. You could now even have a zero-rated ostrich. However, the holly on the Christmas pudding, the brandy that ignites it, and the crackers will still ensure the Chancellor is an unseen guest at the festive table. Ponder too the taxation of snack foods at 17.5 per cent and the anomalies in that arena. Put out a selection and offer a prize for the person who correctly identifies the VAT liability of each.

No one will win. But we can fight back. Charity begins at home when you take your affinity card on a shopping spree. Buy your presents wisely and you will not lay up treasures for the Chancellor.

Lay up the treasures for yourself in the goodwill of tax-free giving. Go for books, or make the gift outlast seasonal goodwill as an annual subscription to a magazine; have your neighbour's cesspool emptied, or pay your mother-in-law's water rates.

Buy the children warm clothing and Jaffa Cakes and send them out to frolic tax-free in the snow while you are left peacefully behind *The Times*, content in the knowledge that it too is tax-free. But, before they go to bed, tell the children of Christmases past when fuel was tax-free and watch their tired eyes widen in disbelief. And have a drink from the bottle bought at the charity bazaar; it was donated for resale and is the only known source of zero-rated cheer.

The author is president of the VAT Practitioners' Group.

A better life and lower bills?

THIS week almost 150,000 accountants will receive detailed merger proposals from their institutes. It is hoped that their arrival among the Christmas cards will mean that the feeling of goodwill towards one's fellow citizens and, in particular, fellow accountants, will carry the day. By midsummer next year, if all goes well, the hope is that the English ICA and the CIMA, the management accounting body, will have voted to merge into a new body called the Institute of Chartered Accountants. In the past, you would have refused to bet on such an outcome. The efforts across the last generation of accountants to merge any of the UK's six accounting bodies with each other have been disasters. There is, you may think, no chance of this new effort being any different. It is dressed in the same old flannel.

"That is our vision," says the first page, "through a new institute, a world-class professional structure for a world-class profession." It promises all the usual pie in the sky. "It is a great opportunity to build from the natural fit of two bodies a new organisation which can be far greater than the sum of the parts."

From all this, you might assume that we were fixed on the same track as before. There will be signs of increasing apathy through the spring followed by English ICA members refusing to vote for joining up with the perceived oiks of some other inferior body. But if you look at the proposals closely, you start to realise that this time it might work. A cunning stratagem has been employed. What is proposed leaves both bodies more or less unchanged. Members of the new body will have the same designatory letters as they do at present. The two separate training systems will turn into separate "streams". To be fair, there would be only one governing



ROBERT BRUCE

council, but there would be separate boards for the existing two memberships. Both their magazines would remain separate. Specialist faculties would remain. In short, most members would notice no difference. The services that will be merged fully will be areas such as research. On top of this almost invisible merger is a blatant attempt at the profession's own "feel-good" factor. In the past, mergers have always been trumpeted with much in the way of abstract aspirations, such as an enhanced reputation and "speaking with one voice". There has never been a tangible benefit.

This time there is. English ICA members are promised a reduction in subscriptions. The members have always been sensitive about them. The fact that the amounts are a fraction of the golf club subs most of them pay is neither here nor there. The annual vote on subs has always been the way to let the leadership know members were far from happy. So it is with a great smile that the document reveals that after the merger English ICA subscriptions will be £125 a year whereas the 1997 prediction was for £145 a year.

So this time, at last, it is a case of vote for a better life, but with your bills cut as well. Or at least it might be. One area the proposals gloss over is the rationalisation savings. But running more or less the same services for two different streams of membership is not likely to be cheaper than running the existing services.

Members have until February to return their questionnaires and then the councils can decide whether the wind is blowing in their direction or not. The idea of the merger makes good sense. As ever with accountants, it is the financial projections that do not.

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- Silicon based smart sensor circuits & process technologies
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- Computer Architecture, Interface (I/O, PCI, SCSI, etc.), Digital/Analog circuit design, etc.
- Multi-media, RF, DSP, data/audio/video compression techniques, etc.
- STN/TFT LCD, switched-mode power supplies, analog display, etc.

MANUFACTURING/TESTING (E5)
- PCBA, COB, SMT, wave soldering, etc.
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- Communication Systems (GSM, DECT, PHS, DCS1800, PCS, Satellite)
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- Antenna design, EMC/EMI, CAD/CAE (e.g. EEsof), etc.
- TDMA, CDMA, spread spectrum, etc.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SOFTWARE (E7)
- UNIX, C/C++, Object-oriented methodology and databases.
- Telecom switches/ISDN/Network Management (ATM, SDH, FR, etc.)
- Data/Speech/Video compression, data communication protocols (TCP/IP, X.25, X.400)

DISK MEDIA (E8)
- Vacuum and Thin Film technology
- Magnetics and Tribology
- Clean room practices

DISK DRIVE (E9)
- Servo systems, servo-writer design, embedded servo architecture
- Spindle/VCM driver circuit design

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT/1)
- Mainframe/Mini/Client-Server Environment (AS400, VAX/VMS, LAN, etc.)
- UNIX, COBOL, Natural, SAS, CSP, CICS, C, C++, Foxpro, Visual Basic, etc.
- MPS, MRP II, DRP, CIM, etc.
- System and Network management, image processing system
- AI (ILOG SOLVER, ILOG SCHEDULER, etc.)
- Computer graphics (X Windows, MFC, Interviews, ILOG VIEWS, etc.)
- RDBMS (Ingres, Oracle, Sybase, etc.)

PETROCHEMICAL/PHARMACEUTICAL

OIL TOOL DESIGN (P1)
- Oil tool/weld head design
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- Plant Control (Centum, TDC-3000, etc.)
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- Elastomers, Coatings, Adhesives, Sealants research

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- Civil/Structural engineering works (design, supervise, cost analysis, estimations, etc.)

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- Design/Redesign building projects, industrial parks and buildings, public housing, commercial complexes, town gardens, sports complexes, bus interchanges, etc.
- Landscape design

PLANNING (UD3)
- Develop conceptual layout plans for land development
- Prepare long-term land use and develop guide plans for public and private sectors

The Singapore Economic Development Board will be leading a recruitment drive in the United Kingdom in March 1996 where representatives from companies will interview shortlisted candidates who respond to this advertisement. Professionals with the relevant Bachelor's or higher degrees (except for R1-4 which are open only to MSc and PhD holders), and experience in any of the above fields are invited to write in immediately. Please send your typewritten resume on A4-sized paper detailing your qualifications, experience, address, telephone/fax number(s) where you can be contacted to:

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- new business development in the Area
- a highly trained and flexible workforce
- the social well-being of the Area
- an appropriate infrastructure to encourage business growth

The new chief executive will be experienced, mature and have held a senior management position for a number of years. He or she will have excellent communication and negotiating skills; expertise in urban regeneration; experience of building new partnerships, preferably involving the private and public sectors and the ability to quickly establish the credibility of the new Agency locally, nationally and internationally.

If you would welcome the challenges involved in shaping the future of one of Britain's premier areas please write, in strictest confidence, enclosing a full CV to :

Malcolm Wall, Chairman, NADA, 112-114 Thorpe Road, Norwich NR1 1RX.

THE TIMES

APPOINTMENTS CONTINUES

ON PAGE 38

RESEARCH AND GALLERY ASSISTANT
required by
West End Art Dealers, founded in 1666,

for their Islamic Textile and South East Asian Department. The candidate should be educated to at least degree level and must have proven research capability and writing skills. A knowledge of the Arts of India, The Islamic World and South East Asia as well as a specialist knowledge of European & Asian Textiles is essential. First hand knowledge/work experience in the Asian art market necessary, as is ability to communicate effectively with the gallery's clients, of whom a large percentage are from South East Asia.

Salary up to £20,000 dependant on experience. Apply in writing to: The Personnel Department, 5 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QS.

The world's leading media publication seeks an
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for its well established and fastest growing sector - UK film accounts. The position requires working knowledge of the film industry and experience in media sales, preferably to the UK market. This unique opportunity offers considerable career and financial potential.
Please send C.V. to: Eric Mika, 34 - 35 Newman St, W1P 3PD.

Aide to the Chief Executive - Amersham

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c £30k p.a. depending on arrangement

We are the UK's leading provider of warranties and building control for newly constructed homes. We are seeking a capable organiser and project manager to act as aide to our busy Chief Executive for about a year whilst the existing post holder completes an overseas assignment.

The duties will be varied including support to the Management Team. The emphasis will be on contributions to business planning and change management activities. IT skills will be an advantage. The successful candidate is likely to be a graduate but favourable consideration would be given to highly literate and numerate applicants who can demonstrate relevant experience. Age is not a selection criterion.

In the first instance written applications to: The Personnel Manager, NHBC, Buildmark House, Chiltern Ave, Amersham, Bucks. HP6 5AP.

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COMPANY
requires the services of a highly motivated person with experience in industry and business contacts in the Peoples Republic of China. The successful candidate must be fluent in English and Mandarin, have marketing awareness, organisational ability and be qualified to Ph.D level in ultra hard cutting materials.
Please forward C.V. in confidence to: The Managing Director, S.P.I. Import and Export, Unit D, The Old Crane Works, Williamson Street, Hull, HU9 1EP.

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Midlands **Attractive package**

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To handle the job you will need to be able to:
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- Handle the pressure of a fast moving, complex and competitive marketplace.
- Have confidence in dealing at a general and technical level.

You will need to be intelligent, forward thinking, creative, thorough, organised, a self starter, understand business, with good communication and team playing skills. Minimum qualifications: Degree or MBA. A knowledge of the education or health sectors would be a distinct advantage.

To apply send your CV to:
Sue Froggatt
Sales & Marketing Director
Dialnet Plc, Western House,
43 Smallbrook Queensway,
Birmingham B5 4HQ.
Tel: 0121 624 5050.

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0181 905 0808

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX No. .....
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هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01895 259 783

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gosland Amer	196.60	208.10†	+ 0.70	0.29
Gosfund Equity	264.90	281.80	+ 1.10	2.09
Gosfund Euro	238.60	253.60	+ 0.10	1.39
Gosfund Eqy. Bal	125.80	139.30		0.81
Gosfund Gtf	75.74	79.11	- 0.20	5.03
Gosfund Japan	175.40	185.60†	+ 1.60	

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

General Acc	611.10	650.20	+ 5.40	2.64
General Inc	525.60	558.80	+ 4.70	2.64
UK Growth Acc	412.30	438.70	+ 3.50	2.88
UK Growth Inc	274.60	292.20	+ 2.30	2.88
Higher Inc Acc	756.90	805.30	+ 6.60	4.22
Higher Inc Inc	421.20	448.10	+ 3.70	4.22
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	206.60	218.10	+ 0.20	6.50
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	94.99	100.30		5.50
Nth America	328.60	350.10	+ 5.70	
Eurocol	318.60	339.00	+ 3.10	0.70
Int Growth	92.44	97.71†	+ 0.72	2.99
Int Fincmic Acc	111.00	118.10	+ 0.70	4.77
Int Fincmic Inc	77.75	82.72	+ 0.52	4.77
Global Opps	94.64	100.90†	+ 1.10	0.20
Balanced Acc	89.09	93.67	+ 0.46	2.86
Balanced Inc	67.51	61.19	+ 0.45	2.86
Japan Acc	47.30	50.32	+ 0.85	
Far Eastn Acc	383.70	408.20	+ 5.90	1.03

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

Gilts & Fixed Int	131.80	139.80†	- 0.40	7.15
High Inc Equity	173.00	185.00	+ 1.00	4.25
Worldwide Bond	292.70	308.70†	- 0.90	4.52
American Growth	332.10	354.80	+ 2.70	0.36
Asian Pacific	313.60	335.40	+ 2.60	
Assets & Earnings	281.90	299.80†	+ 1.30	2.49
Euro Capital Acc	158.10	169.00	+ 0.80	0.61
Euro Inc	43.99	46.80	+ 0.22	8.59
General	256.40	274.30†	+ 1.40	3.05
Global Opps	56.52	60.25	+ 0.24	0.48
Japan	124.90	133.60	+ 1.50	
Managed Inc	46.90	48.80	+ 0.16	4.66
Mastertrust	151.50	162.00	+ 0.70	1.46
US Emerging Cos	121.20	129.70	+ 1.40	
Ethical	74.38	79.13	+ 0.31	2.48
International	126.20	134.30	+ 0.90	0.60
Dividends & Growth	65.10	69.25	+ 0.37	4.06
Global Earth & Soc	70.79	75.59	+ 0.62	2.67

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

UK Small Cos	1967.00	2040.00		

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 388

Amer Inc & Growth	54.62	56.74	+ 0.03	0.54
Cash	50.13	50.13‡	+ 0.01	5.83
Emerging Mkts	64.14	67.98	+ 0.57	0.65
European	125.70	130.80	+ 1.20	
Exempt	998.90	1070.00	+ 2.60	1.74
Extra Income #	47.58	51.03‡	+ 0.03	6.66
Far East Emg Ecn	119.70	125.80	+ 1.20	0.50
Fixed Interest #	73.60	74.54‡	+ 0.01	9.57
Fund Inv Tst	164.00	172.20	+ 0.40	5.04
Japan	187.20	194.70	+ 2.10	
Latin American	47.39	49.74	+ 0.52	0.98
Pacific	80.73	84.77	+ 0.88	0.37
Property Shrs	62.41	65.51	+ 0.07	2.68
UK Emerging Cos	68.25	72.72	+ 0.05	1.10
UK Growth	48.47	51.31	+ 0.29	2.53
Aber World Port #	77.30	78.79‡	+ 0.55	2.08
Ethical	71.52	74.38‡	+ 0.38	2.37
Aberdeen Gil Inc #	50.63	50.63‡	- 0.03	7.39

For AEGON see Matthews

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5868

Restrtl Property	97.41	104.50		5.10

ALLCHURCHES IBN MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Annuity Income	82.38	87.41	+ 0.21	2.32
Incentive Building Inc	74.43	79.18†	+ 0.15	2.89

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01793 618 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 614

Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	255.60	273.70	+ 2.20	2.86
Capital	451.80	482.90	+ 2.90	1.71
Balanced	744.90	796.20†	+ 5.80	2.50
Accumulation	1426.00	1524.00	+15.00	2.66
Income Trusts				
American Income	57.95	61.92	+ 0.55	2.89
High Income	420.90	449.90	+ 4.60	3.43
Equity Income	237.00	253.30	+ 2.70	3.29
High Yield	354.50	372.60	+ 2.30	3.19
Govt Securities	34.65	36.57	+ 0.09	5.80
International Trusts				
Asset Spec Sits	185.20	197.90	+ 3.30	0.26
European Growth	42.76	45.04	+ 0.52	0.01
International	177.70	189.90	+ 3.40	0.17
Japan	305.90	219.30†	+ 3.30	0.01
Pacific	407.10	428.70	+ 6.80	0.01
Stocks of America	525.80	559.60†	+ 9.50	0.41
Wrldw Asset Val	52.62	56.25	+ 0.83	0.21
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	567.10	606.20†	+ 6.30	2.10
Comm & Ener	44.28	47.31	+ 0.10	4.90
Smaller Cos	188.30	201.30†	+ 0.50	1.10
Snd Smaller Cos	178.40	190.70	+ 0.60	1.27
Recovery	150.10	160.40	+ 0.70	1.63
Mid Min & Only	169.50	180.10	+ 2.90	0.66
Ocean Earnings	378.70	404.80†	+ 4.80	1.67
Technology	206.90	221.10†	+ 6.20	0.01
UK Special Sits	549.10	554.90†	+ 4.30	1.56

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01268 535 011

Control Out Fees	130.80	115.10	. . .	3.04
Fousalin Pand Fees	66.25	68.83	. . .	1.44

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 600 0933

Capital	76.34	81.21	+ 1.25	1.79
International	67.27	71.56	+ 1.81	

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

Amerities	297.20	319.90	+ 1.10	.
Bond	120.70	127.80	- 0.40	5.61
Brit Smlr Coc	168.90	178.80	+ 0.70	1.71
Conv & Exc #	66.52	72.60	+ 0.14	5.48
Europe	235.70	251.20†	+ 1.60	0.63
Euro Smlr Cos	106.80	114.00†	+ 0.60	0.63
Income Gwth	369.20	392.80†	+ 2.40	3.89
Japan	327.10	348.50	+ 3.90	
Latin American	67.56	71.59	- 0.60	
Pacific	106.00	112.80†	+ 1.10	1.25
UK Gwth Cos	58.04	61.76	+ 0.65	1.30
Japan Fd	678.50	699.80	+ 4.80	
Mngd Fd	189.20	200.50	+ 2.00	2.96

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 499 0953

Bal & Gloss	350.80	348.50	. . .	0.82
Capital Gwth	117.05	123.80	. . .	2.63
Wrldw Oppc	200.30	211.80	. . .	0.95

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 594 5544

Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	381.80	397.70	+ 1.50	2.60
European Bd Inc	98.44	99.63	- 0.37	6.62
Exempt	78.72	81.84	+ 0.29	4.10
Financial	90.63	99.89†	+ 0.12	2.50
500	466.40	504.20	+ 1.40	2.65
General	294.70	315.50	+ 1.60	2.58
Property	557.60	594.90†		5.47
Tracker	203.90	217.50†	+ 1.10	2.31
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	101.00	101.80		5.65
Exmp Income #	126.40	135.20	+ 0.70	4.97
Gilt & Fxd Int	59.86	63.97†	+ 0.18	7.46
Income	359.00	382.80	+ 1.20	3.84
Income Builder #	66.19	70.91	+ 0.27	5.52
Intl Income	68.70	70.95‡	+ 0.17	3.27
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	138.40	138.10	+ 0.50	2.25
Leisure	148.90	159.30	. .	1.11
Recovery	448.20	478.80	+ 2.10	2.82
Smlr Cos Inc	48.20	51.69	+ 0.04	2.15
Special Sits	335.20	356.50	+ 0.60	1.53
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	158.70	168.60†	+ 1.30	0.30
Asst Acc	268.80	285.20	+ 1.30	1.88
Asst Inc	168.90	171.90†	+ 0.70	1.88
Euro Gwth Inc	164.40	174.50	+ 0.20	0.75
- do- Accum	177.50	188.40	+ 0.30	0.75
Japan & Gen Inc	163.90	173.50	+ 1.70	
- do- Accum	165.80	175.50	+ 1.70	
Japan Spec Sits	74.90	79.35	+ 0.50	..
Glbl Tech Inc	99.31	105.20	+ 0.24	0.48
Worldwide	184.60	195.80	+ 0.90	0.63

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

Amercian Growth	114.10	120.70	+ 2.20	.
Asset Savtr Cos	144.80	154.70	+ 2.60	.
Convertibles	53.91	57.89†		5.40
Eastern	283.40	306.40	+ 4.90	0.90
Equity Income	98.39	104.30	+ 0.60	3.29
European Growth	325.00	345.10	+ 3.20	0.80
Europe	267.80	284.60†	+ 2.80	1.99
German Growth	78.89	83.89	+ 0.18	0.50
Global Bond	99.96	73.65	+ 0.16	6.56
Global Growth	139.70	148.70†	+ 1.40	
Japan Growth	205.90	219.00	+ 2.30	.
Japan Sunrise	160.20	170.40	+ 2.60	.
Korea Tests	74.33	81.06	+ 0.59	.
Portfolio	197.60	147.50	+ 1.80	2.30
- do- Accm	256.90	274.70	+ 2.90	2.30
UK Growth	87.12	93.13	+ 0.62	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	82.90	90.20	+ 0.91	2.50
Select Managers	91.10	96.94	+ 0.56	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3000

Intl Gwth Port Inc	94.25	99.64	. . .	. .
Special Oppor Inc	57.46	61.13	. . .	. .

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
01141 223 0020

Balanced Growth	122.74	129.89	+ 0.33	1.52
- do- Accum	129.65	137.20	+ 0.35	1.52
Smaller Cos	129.65	130.84†	+ 0.04	0.81
Higher Yield #	50.94	53.90	+ 0.08	4.35
American Gth Inc	94.09	99.56	+ 0.89	
European Growth	138.06	146.09	- 0.55	0.21
- do- Accum	140.78	148.97	- 0.56	0.21
Global Bond Inc #	32.58	39.58†	+ 0.14	7.07
Magd Pacific Inc	46.17	48.84	+ 0.24	1.40
- do- Accum	47.35	50.09	+ 0.24	1.40
Int Spec Opps	138.04	143.98	+ 0.45	
Pacific Gwth	132.58	140.30	+ 1.60	0.30
UK Growth #	82.81	87.63†	+ 0.25	2.98
- do- Accum #	87.21	92.29	+ 0.27	2.98
Japan	69.59	64.11	+ 0.50	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	101.62	105.30†	- 0.34	8.46

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0121 480 7216

Short Dated Gilt	67.91	68.78	- 0.10	6.17

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060

Gradion	167.40	178.00†	. .	1.70
Uk Growth	188.10	200.20	+ 0.90	2.07
Uk Income	148.80	149.50	+ 0.50	4.36

CANADA LIFE MGMT (IRE) LTD
01707 822 100

Can Eqty Dist	214.50	227.40	+ 1.80	1.74
- do- Income Dist	115.40	122.30†	+ 0.80	4.09
- do- Accum	383.10	384.80	+ 2.50	4.09
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.76	44.27	- 0.05	8.14
Growth Units	227.10	242.90	+ 0.80	3.07
Bond	178.20	187.70	- 0.50	6.18
Intl Growth	231.20	245.90	+ 1.50	0.26
Pacific Amerikan	231.10	245.90	+ 1.50	0.26
Far East	290.50	310.70	+ 3.20	1.96
UK Smaller Cos	194.80	208.30	. . .	1.41
European	87.11	92.66	+ 0.17	0.65
Japanese Growth	63.31	67.37	+ 0.55	
High Income	203.20	217.30	+ 2.60	3.95

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
01707 827 7425 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455

Accelerator & Gen	185.30	197.20	- 1.80	.
European Inc	85.54	90.57	- 0.76	1.83
Smaller Cos (4-1)	91.26	97.06	- 0.59	1.46
Growth	474.90	505.30	- 5.80	1.76
Income & Growth #	430.30	457.80	- 1.60	3.92
- do- Accum #	831.10	971.40	- 1.40	3.92
Japan & Gen	70.49	74.84	+ 0.09	.
Master Portfolio	1169.65	1113.30	-70.00	2.18
- do- Accum	1133.01	1137.40	-65.00	2.18
Special Sits	111.30	118.50	- 0.70	1.87
High Yield	1128.80	114.33‡	- 3.00	4.46

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0706

Capricorn Portfolio	93.82	100.13	+ 0.48	2.54
Grapestalk Portfolio	112.11	119.57†	+ 1.21	0.94
Longchain Portfolio	108.55	115.69	+ 1.75	0.56
High Income	52.27	55.37	+ 0.07	8.00
Japanese Portfolio	69.72	73.97	+ 0.69	
Pacific Portfolio	145.10	156.63‡	+ 1.17	1.43
UK Inc & Growth	96.72	102.66	+ 0.51	3.03
Utility & Bond	57.24	57.85	+ 0.45	6.51

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

Inv Fund	711.18	721.92		4.46
Fxd Int Sec	157.65	158.49		9.02

CGF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Investment Inc	721.78	732.65		4.35
Investment Acc	831.78	837.76		
Fixed Int Inc	130.38	130.98		8.70
Fixed Int Acc	216.57	217.53		

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

Beckman Tst	93.00	98.10	- 0.68	3.03
Black Rock-Tech	41.42	44.70‡		2.87
Acorn Ethical Tst	167.77	176.17‡		0.73
City Fin Arbitr	76.70	80.54		7.07
City Fin America	104.85	110.10	- 0.78	
City Fin Gilt	87.43	91.81	- 0.43	8.69
City Fin Japan	153.19	160.86‡	- 0.10	
Financ Inco Cap	297.86	311.99		2.34
Financ Inco Inc	191.60	207.49‡	- 3.00	4.35
Buckley World Grth	138.74	144.84‡		
Fremont Can Gth	143.33	150.97‡		
Fairmount Intl	155.14	163.31‡		
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	56.64	58.43‡	.	2.45

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 6771 Admin: 01277 227 300
Emerging Markets 54.15 57.45 - 0.01

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

American Gwth	73.43	78.12	+ 0.05	
Dragon Growth	68.19	72.93	+ 1.10	0.88
Equity High Inc	86.83	92.37‡	+ 0.66	4.12
- do- Accum	121.37	129.12	+ 0.93	4.12
Extra Income Inc	76.91	78.53	- 0.10	7.17
Extra Income Acc	78.00	79.48	- 0.10	7.17
European Gwth	56.95	60.43	+ 0.75	1.14
Evergreen	28.87	30.67	+ 0.10	
General Equity	93.81	99.53	+ 0.67	2.96
Japan Growth	57.33	55.67	+ 0.80	
Pacific Basin	56.74	60.36	+ 0.38	2.73
Pref Snr Coc Inc	33.25	35.37	+ 0.05	1.59
- do- Accum	35.01	37.24	+ 0.05	1.59
Retirement Inc #	28.61	30.32	+ 0.39	5.91
Special Sits	41.89	44.56	+ 0.27	2.22
UK & Overseas	54.10	57.40	+ 0.69	0.76

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 898 000

Capital	74.78	77.89	+ 0.86	1.95
Balanced	65.08	67.79	+ 0.49	4.15

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)

Income Funds:				
Equity Inc	170.53	181.42	- 1.37	4.82
Fixed & Convertible	49.96	43.67	+ 0.02	6.67
Maxima, Inc Plus	43.96	53.15	- 0.15	8.43
Preference Share	47.09	50.10	- 0.06	7.78
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	132.59	141.05	+ 0.78	5.76
Managed Fund	72.86	77.51	+ 0.55	3.04
UK Growth Funds:				
Smaller Cos	43.04	45.78	+ 0.13	1.77
- do- Accum	50.09	53.29	+ 0.14	1.77
UK & General	87.29	92.86	+ 0.69	2.75
- do- Accum	112.14	119.30	+ 0.89	2.75
UK Growth	165.29	176.90	+ 1.16	2.29
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	200.51	213.31	+ 1.89	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	122.68	141.36	- 2.27	
Global Bond	84.45	89.78	- 0.02	5.89
Japan Growth	118.73	126.31	+ 1.93	
North Amer Gth	297.70	320.96	+ 2.51	
Oriental Growth	89.04	95.15	+ 1.52	0.06
Worldwide Growth	71.43	75.99	+ 0.73	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.43	92.43	+ 0.03	6.11
Homemaker Fund	86.72	92.26	+ 0.74	1.64
Dealer Fund	142.56	151.47	+ 0.85	2.01

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5966

Consistent UT	33.34	35.68	.	3.34

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 358

Growth	168.20	178.80	+ 2.80	1.81
Income	70.70	75.21	+ 1.04	5.82
European	66.25	69.41	+ 0.57	0.64
Recovery	165.10	175.60	+ 0.29	2.11

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 253 9494

Equity Dist	912.30	925.50‡		3.50

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 690 370

Fellowship Tst	92.61	98.52	- 0.04	1.52
Income #	263.00	279.70	+ 1.50	4.26
- do- Accum #	674.30	717.30	+ 4.10	4.26
Smaller Cos	196.90	209.40	- 0.30	0.99
- do- Accum	243.40	259.90	- 0.40	0.99
Inv Portfolio	89.52	95.23	+ 0.26	1.57
High Inc Port #	78.74	81.83	+ 0.38	4.57

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 410 0177

Euro Small Cos	153.10	1585.10†		.
Japan Small Cos	1224.40	1245.10†		.
UK Small Cos	1913.20	1993.10		.
US Small Cos	1660.60	1696.80†		.

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8818

Disc Inc	218.50	230.00		2.95

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0131 315 2500

European Gwth	294.20	311.00	+ 2.00	0.68
New Asia	219.60	233.90	+ 2.80	0.25
Japan Growth	111.50	118.70	+ 1.80	
Jap Smlr Co	452.80	468.30	+ 2.80	
Nth Amer	353.30	373.80	+ 1.90	0.78
Uk Inc & Grth	231.30	245.80	+ 2.30	2.97

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 555

UK Balanced Inc	162.50	162.70†	+ 0.60	1.65
UK High Inc Inc	161.78	172.00†	+ 0.60	4.19
- do- Accum	214.40	228.00†	+ 0.80	4.19
UK Prel & F I Inc	59.53	63.16†	- 0.15	4.95
Emerging Opps	91.52	97.36	+ 0.27	0.66
UK Smlr Cos #	59.63	63.43	- 0.13	0.01
Extra Income Inc	48.05	52.18	- 0.24	7.60

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0845 600 526

American	154.00	163.40†	+ 1.20	1.07
Convertibles #	80.85	82.26†	+ 0.03	6.79
Equity Income #	132.60	140.90†	+ 1.00	3.76
Euro Fund	92.30	95.48	+ 0.50	0.36
Financial	48.35	52.44	+ 0.46	1.43
Growth & Inc #	260.30	276.80	+ 3.40	2.75
High Dist #	186.20	178.60†	+ 1.50	4.25
International	411.80	437.50	+ 3.70	0.11
Inv Cap Inc	98.51	105.20	+ 1.00	2.61
Latin American	26.02	27.65	+ 0.56	.
Pacific	80.98	85.98	+ 1.30	.
Prel High Inc	21.03	23.19	+ 0.04	7.12
Tokyo	232.50	247.30	+ 3.00	.
UK Smaller Cos	246.30	261.70	- 0.40	1.05

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0242

Bill Director Dlgs	99.90	105.35	- 2.18	1.52
Growth Acc	244.54	261.11	+ 6.88	0.88
Income	202.62	619.67	- 1.66	5.19

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261

Endurance Fd	218.10	232.00	.	1.19

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01296 431 400

European	84.91	89.36	+ 0.68	2.65
Global Tst	45.02	47.38	+ 0.34	1.34
Far Eastern	304.64	320.67	+ 4.75	1.65
High Income	133.75	140.79†	+ 1.48	4.87
Intl Growth	124.36	130.90	+ 1.19	0.45
North American	133.64	140.67	+ 1.17	1.53
Pacific	127.85	134.58	+ 1.44	1.94
Smaller Cos	85.96	89.43†	+ 0.09	2.90
Special Sits	88.32	92.97	+ 0.57	3.24
Tst of Inv Tsts	165.47	265.76	+ 1.02	1.33

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 407 5966

Smaller Cos Inc	201.10	214.02	+ 0.06	1.32
Smaller Cos Acc	358.64	378.77	+ 0.13	1.32
Recovery	50.01	53.20†	+ 0.14	1.58
Recovery Acc	51.23	54.50†	- 0.14	1.59

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

Capital Growth	87.01	93.31	+ 0.15	.
Fd of Inv Tsts	48.55	51.47	+ 0.17	0.56
High Income #	48.93	43.86	.	10.48
Mineral	52.86	56.59	+ 0.13	.
Zero Preference	42.27	44.86†	- 0.10	.

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01278 220 707

Family Assist Tst	80.83	86.58	+0.010	3.23
Family Income Tst	45.39	45.39	+0.230	6.64
Family Trust	98.07	98.89	- 0.29	2.55
United Charities	354.36	381.10	+1.400	5.65

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161

Czech Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	. . .	6.10
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	39.19	39.27†	- 0.07	7.07
Intl Bond	30.39	31.53		5.92
Income Funds				
High Income	25.92	26.91†	+ 0.02	5.42
Income Plus	118.90	126.50†	+ 0.50	4.18
Amer Eq Inc	57.91	60.41	+ 0.54	1.46
European Income	44.99	47.84	+ 0.29	2.40
Global Convertible	24.29	25.81†	+ 0.05	2.73
UK Div Grth	27.67	29.43	+ 0.19	2.25
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	84.34	88.83	+ 1.76	.
American	301.39	319.10	+ 6.40	.
Amer Spec Sits	161.40	172.20	+ 3.60	.
Japan Smaller Cos	34.02	36.59	+ 0.90	.
European	194.29	206.50	+ 0.90	0.68
European Opps	68.72	74.14	+ 0.78	0.15
Global Pac	27.29	29.02	+ 0.32	0.77
Gth Eqty	105.90	112.70	+ 0.58	1.27
Growth & Inc	158.29	168.30	+ 1.10	2.89
Intl PEP	42.47	45.15	+ 0.48	1.07
Japan Spec Sits	90.70	96.56	+ 1.04	.
Japan	166.80	166.40	+ 3.10	.
Managed Intl	168.80	179.60	+ 1.90	0.44
Moneybuilder	59.69	63.44	+ 0.45	.
Recovery	50.64	54.06	- 0.05	1.43
South E Asia	168.40	179.70	+ 2.50	1.08
Special Sits	862.00	848.10	+ 1.10	0.72
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	112.27	112.27	+ 0.01	6.18

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 814 2700

Balanced #	141.10	149.90	- 1.50	2.04
Inc Platio #	88.45	90.01†	+ 0.59	3.43
Cap Platio	151.30	153.70†	+ 1.00	1.51
General Opps	132.10	133.70	- 1.79	3.47
Growth Inc	33.73	34.44†	+ 0.19	1.85
Private Portfolio	446.20	455.70	- 5.70	1.97

FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Enq: 0171 454 1454 Dlg 01277 261 010

Euro Small Cos	124.10	132.10	+ 0.50	0.60
Emrg Asian	155.30	166.10	+ 2.30	.
High Income	21.18	22.52‡	+ 0.13	.
Inter Income Acc	118.10	126.40	+ 0.50	2.44
UK Income	106.90	113.10†	+ 0.90	4.32
US Smaller Cos	361.10	384.00	+ 0.30	0.39

FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
01737 852 352

Foster & Braithwaite	77.08	81.05	+ 0.33	4.19
Investment Trust	98.22	104.33	+ 0.31	.
UK Smaller Cos	91.53	96.25	+ 0.11	0.99

FRANKLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq 0171 330 9500 Dealing 0345 777511

American Growth	70.74	75.42	+ 1.05	
- do- Accum	70.74	75.42	+ 1.05	
Asian Smlr Cos	588.60	626.10	+ 6.50	
- do- Accum	606.60	646.80	+ 6.30	
Capital Tst	336.40	357.60	- 0.40	1.42
- do- Accum	488.80	519.60	- 0.70	1.42
Coastal Dealg Cos	56.16	60.25	+ 0.20	0.98
- do- Accum	59.26	63.58	+ 0.27	0.68
Convertible	129.20	137.40†	+ 0.10	5.51
- do- Accum	274.00	291.40	+ 0.20	5.51
Emerging Markets	83.61	87.96	+ 0.65	
- do- Accum	83.86	88.22	+ 0.66	
European	125.90	133.30	+ 1.50	0.38
- do- Accum	132.40	140.20	+ 1.50	0.38
Extra Income	356.10	378.70	+ 1

Shares end near their best

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2937½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2878½	+37½	4.5	10.6
654	413	Abbey Nat	623	-6	2.9	12.5
368	250	Allied Irish	346	-4	4.2	10.1
303	198	Aus New Z	300	+1	5.3	
4425	2531½	Bank America	4200½	+118½		
307½	191½	Bank Scotland	279	+2	2.8	12.3
812½	557½	Barclays	742	-9	3.8	10.1
488	298	Bk of Ireland	484	-3	3.6	9.4
525	418	Cater Allen	436		8.6	7.2
4718½	2550	Citicorp	4543½	+118½		
340½	216½	Close Bros	313	-3	3.4	14.1
£162½	£129½	Commerzbk	£152½	+16½	3.6	
1375	993½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1271	-18½	0.4	
3231½	2775	Deutsche Bk	3062½	-6½	2.4	
881½	568½	Espirito Santo	600	+18½	5.9	8.0
1611	1138½	Fuji Bank Y	1502½	+23½	0.4	
490	395	Gerrard Nat	453		6.2	14.6
253	160	Hambros	196		4.8	
1019	583	HSBC	998½	+17½	3.5	13.0
994	578	HSBC HK	974½	+16	3.6	12.7
403	228	Irish Perm	402	-1	3.0	9.3
463	353	Joseph (L)	458		5.1	25.6
145	85	King Shaxson	140		8.3	10.6
695	530	Lloyds	677	-3	4.1	12.6
592	479	Nat Aust Bk	577	+10	6.9	
697	454	Nat West	652	+2	4.4	10.1
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2500		6.6	3.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	61	+2	2.0	24.4
639½	373½	Ryl Bk Scotl	564	-4	3.6	12.8
1478	906½	Schroders	1315½	-2½	1.3	18.2
1180	823½	Schroders N/V	1106	-7	1.6	15.8
111	81	Singer & Fried	109		4.2	11.3
625	346	Stand Chart	548	+2	2.1	13.8
417	217	TSB	391	-1	3.7	13.5
121	70	Union	100		3.8	
2145	2043½	Wells Fargo	£140	+193½	2.1	
270	211	Westpac	268½	+1	5.1	
255	200	Wintrust	275		5.4	15.5

BREWERIES

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
265	143	Asda Hldgs	262			0.5
731	467	Bass†	700	-7½	4.1	
451	339	Boddington	451		2.5	23.2
192	137	Burtonwd Brw	174½		3.9	16.9
191	1..	Eldridge P	167	-2	3.1	
433	325	Fuller Sm A	416		2.6	17.7
548	402	Greenalls Grp	543	+3	3.3	
653	468	Greene King	624		2.9	16.6
297	230	Hardy Hanson	296		3.5	
160	150	Heavitree	155		4.5	10.9
3425	3048	Holt J	3105		2.2	16.6
347	219	Mansfield	314		2.1	15.8
321	260	Marston Thmpl	306		3.0	14.4
543	391½	Morland	532	-1	2.8	
8½	6½	Paramount	6½		4.2	10.4
703	301	Pegent Inc	653	-1	1.3	25.9
2381½	1267½	SA Breweries	2381½	+37½	1.5	31.3
646	482	Scot & New	603	+1	3.9	16.1
337	230	Scot & New PP	330			
218	173	Tom Cobleigh	206	-3	1.7	33.4
300	211	Vaux Group	297	+4	5.1	13.1
640	449	Wetherspoon JD	635		1.6	25.8
679	521	Whitbread†	665	+1	3.9	16.4
585	483	Wolverhmptn D	582	+5	3.3	
310	186	Yates Bros	303		1.3	36.8
475	425	Young A	436		4.3	17.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	125	Abbey	140		4.7	9.1
213	142	Allen†	213	+6	2.5	15.9
101	54½	Amec†	90	+1	4.2	19.0
275	133	Andrews Sykes	258			
195	137½	Ashtead	169		1.8	16.7
105	30	Avonside	33	+1	12.5	5.2
38	23	Bailey (Ben) Con	35		5.2	6.1
41½	30½	Barcom	35		1.1	
245	158	Barratt Devs	245	+5	3.8	15.3
175½	122	Beazer Homes	174	+2	4.2	12.5
266	180	Bellway	251		3.9	11.8
37	15	Bellwinch	19	+1	1.4	9.7
430	315	Berkeley Gp	427	+1	2.1	15.1
185	160	Bett Bros†	172		3.9	6.2
245	185	Bool (Henry)	188		4.8	8.8
124	81	Brandon Hire†	91		3.1	16.2
40	17	Britannia Grp	23		8.7	4.5
160	36	Br Bldg & Eng	40		25.0	5.5
134	93	Bryant	108	-½	5.8	9.8
121	92	CALA	97	-24	4.6	8.4
38	16	Campbell & Arm	17			13.5
64	49	Clarke T	49		10.4	17.6
242½	67	Costain	72			
110	53	Countryside	57	-1	6.3	
81	43	Crest Nicholson	58		4.3	8.1
98	70	Cussins	79	-1	6.0	6.9
293	165	Eve Group	168		6.7	9.0
29	13	Galliford	18		6.9	36.6
863	738	Gleeson (MJ)	738		2.5	14.0
86	60	Green (Ernst)	60		10.6	26.1
273	178	Havelock Europ	271		1.5	22.8
158	115	Hewden-Stuart	134		2.6	14.2
91	73	Higgs & Hill	85		3.8	70.5
22	14	Howard Hldgs	15		6.1	17.5
29½	8½	Jarvis	23½	-½		
148	98	Keller	142	-1	3.3	
259	195	Laing (J)	259	+5	4.3	32.0
106	82	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	104		7.7	
61	12	Lovell (YJ)	15			
210	176	Maunders (J)	186		3.8	9.9
181	104	McAlpine (A)	148		5.1	16.9
70	48	McCarthy & St	66		3.8	
80	51	Morgan Sindall	80	+1	1.3	
133	116	Morrison Cons	122		4.4	11.9
106	53	Mowlem (J)	59		4.2	29.4
216	162	Persimmon	199		6.0	13.8
114½	76½	Pochins	100		2.0	12.2
126	94	Prowting†	111		4.3	14.8
53	13	Rome Ind	17	+3	3.7	
52	45	Secure Retire	48		2.6	9.1
134	93	Redrow	134		2.9	12.4
398	318	Sherill Hldgs†	319		2.7	
112½	71	Shorco	72		6.9	11.0
368	258	Spandect†	353		1.0	22.5
176	142	Try Homes	149		5.9	10.2
130	99	Taylor Woodrw	119	-2	2.4	22.7
568	415	Tilbury Dougls	440	-3	8.4	15.0
59½	28	Torex Hire	32		5.1	13.7
23	6	Trencherwood	10			4.1
20	7½	Try Group	10½		6.0	14.7
109	71	Vibroplant†	72	+1	7.0	5.4
116	93	Wainhomes†	100		6.6	9.3
60	37	Ward Hldgs	50		3.8	11.2
190	133	Westbury†	180		4.3	13.3
5½	2½	Wiggins	4			27.5
174	124	Wilson (C)	159	+1	5.6	11.8
372	308	Wilson Bowdn	350		3.6	12.8
140	9	Wimpey G	140	+2	4.9	20.4

BUILDING MATERIALS

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
14	7½	Allbrighton	12			
445	311½	Alumasc	400		2.3	17.3
342	267½	BPB Ind†	290	+3	4.0	13.5
133	94	Baggeridge Brk	114		3.5	
36	22½	Bardon	32½	-½	7.7	15.8
76	36	Blockleys	46		1.1	
339	255	Blue Circle	327	+3	4.5	14.9
69	72	Breedon PLC	71		7.8	10.7
136	106	Br Dredging	107		6.5	14.0
490	338	CRH	484		2.1	18.2
46	38	Cakebread Rby	38		3.3	
210	141	Cape	141	-5	9.8	10.9
173	173	Caradon	185	+1	6.4	9.6
134½	99½	Caradon pf	106		8.5	
55	18	Chelfan Gp	19		13.2	
198	105	Dyson (J&J)	178		2.8	14.7
90	63	Dyson 'A'	82		6.1	6.8
98½	56½	Eclipse Blinds	88			
315	220	Epwin	237		4.7	12.8
133	73	Flare	125	-2		
99	85	Gibbs & Dandy	91½		4.4	
205	160	Graham Grp	199		3.4	17.4
389	312	Halstead (J)	389		2.7	17.1
325	254	Hepworth	300		6.2	13.8
85	38	Hewetson	39		8.2	8.1
268	202½	Heywd Wim	231		7.5	11.9
85	63	Ibstock	66½		3.3	11.0
398	262	Johnston	335	-2	3.9	7.8
108	84	Lilleshall	88		6.9	10.5
139½	106	Marley	113	-1	5.2	9.9
160	125	Marshalls	143	+1	4.4	10.2
393	289	Meyer Intl	390		3.7	14.8
176	113	Newman Tnks	119		7.2	10.7
108	71	Norcros	86	-1		
20	12	Phoenix Timber	17			16.2
207	126½	Pilkington▼	203	+1	3.0	16.1
177	122	Polypipe	171	+3	1.9	16.0
1119	848½	RMC Gp	979	+8	2.7	13.3
18	3	Ramus	5			
470	322	Redland	382	+5	5.5	11.7
122	88	Ruskel	95		5.7	9.9
176½	128	Ruberoid	143		5.3	11.6
125	100	Rugby Group	111	+4	4.1	14.3
113	88	Russell (A)	113		2.9	15.5
362	197	SIG	200	-1	3.9	11.1
19	11	SWP	11½			
180	156	Sharpe & Fisher	157		4.0	12.5
43	16	Spring Ram	24½		2.6	
130	80	Tarmac	106	-3½	6.5	16.0
160	100	Titon	103		5.9	
350	266	Travis Perkins	350		3.2	14.7
36	24	Tudor	30		3.1	17.8
68	33	Wainhouse	50			
136	83	Wickes	122		1.9	22.7
455	324	Wolseley†	451	+4	2.7	15.2

BUSINESS SERVICES

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2	0½	Anglo Utd	0½			
110	57	App Holo	88			
7½	5½	Bailey (CH)	6½	+½		
59	36	Black Arrow†	39		9.9	6.8
80	60	Br Bloodstock	88			28.4
6	3	Card Co	3½			
9½	4½	Chemex	6½		3.0	
161	135	Cosalt	153		7.4	
277	215	Filofax	257		1.4	17.6
43	24	Headway	32			29.1
436	248	Hazlelock	431	+2	2.6	16.5
168	93	Leigh†	100	+5	8.2	11.8
331	102	Hobo Gp	134		5.8	8.8
265	149	Photo-Me†	151		4.1	13.2
68	53	Plant & Gen†	56		6.0	6.1
11	0½	Rodime	1	-½		
104	73	Shanks & McEwan†	89		4.8	18.4
213	160	Sinclair (Wm)	181	-2	6.2	12.3
480	149½	Superscape VR	412	+8		
414	241	Waste Mgt Ind	336	+6		12.7
148	73	Waste Recyg	129		1.2	28.0

CHEMICALS

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
198	146	Albright & Wil	153	-1	4.9	16.1
137	109	Allied Colloids	130	+1	2.5	19.8
245	195	Amber Ind†	207		3.4	13.5
73	37	Amberley Gp	71		2.3	20.4
£147½	£120¾	BASF DM	£143½	-96½	3.1	
923½	689	BOC†	891	+10	3.8	17.1
303	236	BTP	264		5.3	15.1
£171½	£141½	Bayer DM50	£170½	+125	3.4	
165	103	Blagden	143			
119	67	Brent Chems	69		5.8	18.9
278	200	Br Vita	212		4.7	13.5
239	184	Canning (W)	212		4.6	13.6
499½	352	Courtaulds†	400	+17	4.9	18.3
387½	210	Croda	333		3.4	14.5
253	125	Doeflex	208		3.5	13.5
282	234	Ellis & Everard	245	-1	4.5	14.3
107	58	Euro Colour†	93		2.9	20.2
224	114	Gibbon	173		4.8	13.5
145	76	Hickson	77		6.7	7.3
£172½	£123	Hoechst	£170½	+43½	3.0	
221½	163	Holliday Chem	164		3.8	11.7
849½	660	ICI	758	+25	4.7	14.5
381	188½	Inspec	330		1.8	23.0
159	97½	Kalon	108	+1	5.3	12.3
852	599	Laporte	648	+7	4.4	13.3
65	65	MTM	77		2.6	13.8
385	283	Manders	284		4.9	12.8
66	41	Mohluci	37		5.1	13.8
516	352½	Montedison	438½	+2½	4.7	19.5
475	290	Porvair	349		1.8	25.5
250	148	Scapa†	216½	+1	3.6	15.6
34	16	Sutcliffe Speak	27		2.2	33.2
1077½	695½	Takeda Chem	1033½	+32½	0.9	13.8
256	186	Wellington Hdg	248		3.4	19.0
1056	728	Wolstenholme R	985		3.8	16.7
374	255	Yorks Chem	255	-1	4.2	12.5
340	236	Yule Catto	305		3.0	16.1

DISTRIBUTORS

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	88½	ABI Leisu	93		5.8	9.5
535	440	Adam & Harvey	440		5.6	5.8
21	13	Alexanders	16		5.5	26.3
113	68	Appleyard	94	+1	8.0	10.1
4½	3½	Ass Br Eng	3½		2.1	39.5
625	518	BSS Group†	520		4.7	14.9
39	31	Bandl	38			
24½	15½	Bearing Power†	16½		9.5	
28	18	Bogod 'A'	26		3.4	9.2
483	345	Brammer	431		3.9	16.6
21	10½	Bridgend Grp	17		1.5	
96	78	Brit Fittings	81		4.9	12.3
270	215	Caffyns†	245		5.9	16.9
88	54	Central Mtr	75		4.6	20.4
61	35	Cook (DC)	66	-1	3.8	8.1
330½	220	Cowie	292	-2	4.0	12.6
155	125	Dag Motors	126		7.1	10.4
598	503	Dennans El	503		1.9	11.1
501	375½	Diploma†	392	+1	4.6	
370	236	Electrocomp†	353	+3	2.1	24.0
298	153	Evereds Elec	262	-1	3.0	18.1
235	64	Eurodollar	70		14.6	4.8
120	87	European Mtr	95		6.8	8.2
449	280	Evans Halshaw	296		6.8	8.9
732	512	Ferrell Elect	741	+2	1.7	20.7
72	48	Fife Indmar	66		6.2	10.8
24½	15	Gardner	17½		5.9	7.7
37	16	Glencheston	34½		1.1	
108	61	Goverings	86		3.3	14.3
218	148	Hartz (Poign)	216		4.3	13.7
206	142	Headlam	205		2.6	18.0
554	358	Henlys	497		2.5	18.5
137	81	Holders Tech	133		5.6	25.3
163	88	ISA Intl	153		1.3	16.7
430	200	Inchcape†	234	+4	8.0	21.2
66	53	Jacks (Wm)	60		1.6	11.4
197	142	Kwik-Fit	167		3.4	14.3
358½	283½	Lex Service	304		5.9	16.3
195	146	Lookers	149		6.4	8.2
25	3	Malaya Grp	12½	+½	4.8	16.9
7½	5	Middlesex	9	+½	0.7	20.7
71	38	Molstoles	38			5.4
534	330	Norbaut	495		1.9	16.7
268	78	Northamber	254		0.9	20.3
155	135	PCT	137		7.0	9.8
283	225	Pendragon	272		3.9	14.2
166	123	Perry Gp	146		6.5	11.0
146	126	Quicks Group	135	+1	5.3	11.5
198	160	REA	185		2.7	22.0
3½	2½	Reece	2½			
73	48	Rencon	56		2.8	11.4
6½	2½	Ross Gp	3			
63½	37½	SEP Ind	54	-½	3.8	
17½	8½	Salmo	12			6.8
74½	38	TLS	70		3.3	11.9
268	226	Time Products†	248		4.7	14.5
275	151	Vardy (Reg)	273		2.6	17.3
325	240	Wholesale Ftgs	325		4.5	20.3
80	54½	Whitlam	55½	-½	1.8	13.2
90	56½	Wyko	75		2.1	74.6
118	68	Young (H)	111		4.4	

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
175	116	Adwest	118		8.3	9.5
353	235	Antofagasta	293		1.9	13.8
940	728½	Broken Hill	919	+16	2.6	21.2
348	291	BTR	318½	+2½	5.4	13.8
582	405	BAT†	554	+10	5.1	12.6
270½	144	Berisford Intl	189	+2	2.0	
131	71	Bobby (J)	115		6.2	9.3
51½	40½	Brierley Inv	50	-½	8.7	2.8
948	743	Charter	815		3.8	13.2
314	185	Cookson	295	-10	3.1	18.7
153	100	Grampian Hdg	133	-1	5.5	15.0
243½	180½	Hanson†	189½	+4½	7.9	10.3
162½	135	Hanson Crstd	149	+1	7.6	15.7
578½	208½	Hutch Whamp	379½	+5½	2.1	20.2
584½	341½	Jardine Math	430½	+1½	3.8	8.5
37	26	Jourdan (T)†	27		5.8	7.3
182	134	Lonrho	181	+4	3.1	25.0
173	113	McLeod Russel†	167	+1	4.8	
44	34	Porter Chadbn	41			14.0
601	430	Powell Duffryn†	444	-1	7.0	18.2
152	123	Hopkins	145		7.1	10.0
178	120	Sime Darby†	167	+2	2.8	15.4
230	164	Staveley†	196		5.4	13.4
207	148	Suter	169		7.2	11.3
286	227	TT Group	267		2.7	15.0
289	214	Tomkins	271	+2	4.0	15.1
76	18½	Trafalgar H	22½	-½		
295	295	Unicare	295		7.7	
400	315	Wardle Storeys†	358	+3	6.0	19.1
300	236	Wassall	248	+2½	2.3	14.1
200	162	Whitecroft	188		3.0	14.0
350	298½	Williams Hldg	323	+5	5.3	15.0

ELECTRICITY

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
754½	437½	East Midlands	687	+2	5.5	9.2
978	535	Eastern Grp	973		3.6	13.0
742½	411	London Elect	690	+4	5.7	9.0
1038	621	Manweb	1024		3.9	13.9
789½	441½	Midlands Elec	748	-4	6.4	9.2
214½	198	National Grid	200½	+1½	7.0	9.0
561	421½	National Power†	447	+18	4.6	9.2
271	132	Nat Power P/Pt	154	+14	4.5	9.5
703½	442	Northern Elec▼	625	+3	7.0	6.2
477	313	Nthn Ireland	445		4.1	9.7
1202	611	Norweb	1013		3.5	10.6
609	457½	PowerGen†	520	+6	4.1	9.5
299	176½	PowerGen (P/Pt)	203	+4	4.0	11.4
379	303	Hydro-Elect	357		5.1	9.7
385½	306	Scottish Power	363	+4	5.0	10.5
528	244½	Seeboard	528		3.4	11.3
944	501½	Sth Wales	944		4.5	8.8
977	548	Southern Elec	906	+3	4.5	11.6
741½	465	Yorkshire Elec	661	+7	6.8	7.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
577	292	Acal†	557		1.7	20.2
348	77½	Acorn Comp	235	-4		
865	625	Admiral	838		1.3	22.0
290	195	Alba	280		2.4	18.1
296½	127½	Amstrad	218	+2	1.4	
41	30	Arlen	35		2.1	12.1
131	77	Astec	116½	+½	1.4	18.1
521	116	Azlan	506	-4	0.8	22.5
364	239	BICC†	277		5.6	16.3
250	215	Bates Hunter	215		5.9	11.5
533	423	Bulin	454		3.7	
435	284	Bowthorpe	416	+1	2.8	19.0
27	17½	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	24		2.1	9.5
201	117	CML Micro	133		5.7	13.9
39	17	Channel Hldgs	37		6.1	7.6
26½	19	Chloride†	23½		1.8	30.0
80	61	Clayhithe	72		5.5	12.0
170	39½	Cray Elect	40		4.7	
648	462	Critchley†	644		1.9	32.0
600	330	Danka Bs Syst	528	+12	0.5	28.5
533	373	Delta	395	+2	5.0	13.6
565	365	Domino	403	-1	3.1	13.2
72	61	Dowding Mills	64		5.4	17.0
2575	1465	Druck	2575		0.6	33.8
3340½	2490½	Electrolux 'B'	2681½	+131½	4.6	4.1
34½	26	Emess	31½		0.4	
1659½	850	Ericsson 'B'	1221½	+12½	3.5	8.6
104	64	Eurocopy	72		4.1	
575	370	Eurotherm	543	+6	1.7	
542	375	Farey Group	530	+2	1.7	22.3
513	165	Filtronic Com	433	+38	0.2	69.3
690	195	Forward Gp	625	-5	1.3	26.9
100	40	Forward Tech	90		3.5	12.6
341	269	GEC†	328½	+1½	4.4	15.3
171	122	Graseby	127		6.5	11.6
141	75	Ind Control	106	+7	4.2	21.1
30	14	Intelek	25½		3.1	32.4
320	220	Kenwood App	227		5.6	10.0
107	50	Kode	97			
49	28	LPA Ind	34		6.2	24.2
330	266	MTL Inst	280		2.1	15.6
398	240	Memec	248		2.6	16.3
53½	30½	Microvitec	49		2.0	16.5
446	231	Mitel	406	-8		
464	315	Oxford Inst	404		1.8	16.0
183	51	Pacer Systems	165		2.6	21.7
112	73	Peek	98½		4.3	15.9
3321½	1906½	Philips Lmp nv	2962½	+100	2.1	9.4
349	206	Pifco	206	-2	5.0	12.9
327	196	Pifco 'A' Vtg	196	-2	3.2	12.2
153	116	Plasmec	140		4.0	11.2
153	96	Pressac	146		3.0	
54	23	Prestwick	37			14.7
913	243	Psion	785		0.6	33.2
31	15	Quadrant Grp	17		1.8	47.5
295	217	Racal Elect	278	+5	2.4	21.3
83	44	Radamec	79	-1	3.5	17.5
449	301	Renishaw	385½		0.6	21.7
286	202½	Roxboro	269	-1	2.5	13.3
20½	5	Scantronic	9			
59	38	Silvermines	57		2.4	15.1
61	32	Soundtracs	32		9.8	9.3
240	163	Simes	240		2.3	16.8
9½	6	TDS Circuit	6½			
3468½	2468½	TDK	3237½	+140½	1.0	
376	37	Tadpole Tech	73	+3		
180	57	Telemetrix	125	+1	1.2	17.9
102	83	TGI	91		4.0	10.7
1048	342	Telspec	805	-5	0.6	45.0
289	226	Thorpe FW	238		2.1	14.5
184	130	TLG†	162		1.9	17.5
38	16	Total Systems	22			22.8
320	227	Tunstall	307		1.8	
587	350	Unitech	496	+10	1.9	18.2
13½	8	Verity	12½		1.0	19.9
465	368	Volex	435		5.6	15.3
79	19	Wakebourne	19	-2		2.7
187	122	Whessoe	159		3.6	

ENGINEERING

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
347	167	AIM	298		1.9	
97	47½	APV†	74	+1	5.2	
248	87	ASW	88½		8.3	4.3
37	24	Aero Hamble	30			
157	42	Alvis†	134	-2	1.9	
176	133	Ash & Lacy	176		4.6	12.1
648	538	Atlas Copco	645		4.3	22.6
153	118	Ayrshire Metal	126		5.5	7.2
102	79	BI Group	101		5.9	12.9
187	112½	Babcock†	142	+½	2.3	
165	122	BWI†	133	+1	6.9	12.8
105	77	Baynes (Charles)	98	-1	2.8	17.0
38½	23	Beauford	25	-1	2.2	5.8
130	90	Billam	95		7.0	
421	308	Bodycote†	413		1.8	21.0
87	33	Booth Inds	40			
21	13½	Brasway	13½	-½	4.3	17.7
157½	118	Bridon▼	119		4.3	14.9
835	418½	Br Aerospace	758	+3	1.8	20.3
191	144	Br Steel†	151	+1	7.0	4.3
14½	10½	Brooks Tool	11½		1.1	27.2
49	32½	Brunel†	33½	+½	1.9	13.1
190	101	Bullough	101		7.5	9.8
123	71	Burnfield	94		4.1	13.6
336	236	Carclo Eng	314		4.1	16.8
194	150	Castings	175	-2	2.6	14.1
168	145	Chamberlin Hill	158		5.7	9.4
355	294	Chemring	380		3.7	
225	130	Clyde Blowers†	198		3.8	
470	302	Cobham	460	+6	2.4	28.0
725	505	Cohen (A)	645		1.2	5.9
203	148	Concentric	166	+6	5.0	
243	210	Cook (Wm)†	222		4.6	9.1
249	189½	David Brown	197	+1	4.5	12.9
193	68	Dobson Park	130		5.0	26.8
417	330	EIS†	359	-1	4.5	13.0
115	91	Elliott (B)†	107		3.2	11.4
94	71	Expamet	90		3.3	17.0
184	130½	FKI†	158½	-2	3.8	14.7
157	119½	Fenner†	124	-2	3.6	12.1
26	1½	Ferrum	1½			
40	22	Firth Hldgs	38½	-1		21.6
138	77	GEI Intl	119	+1½	3.7	11.6
199	117	Gardon Eng	177		4.1	9.6
378	292	Glynwed	300	+5½	5.1	12.4
13½	10½	Graystone	13		5.0	9.0
89	59	Haden MacLn	80½		3.4	21.1
200	173	Hadleigh†	182		2.6	11.9
215	136	Hall Eng	178			
175	133½	Halma	171	+½	1.7	22.8
57	39	Hampson Ind	46		6.1	10.5
41	19	Hay (Norman)	28			
137	106	Hill & Smith	108	-1	6.7	13.6
59	28	Hopkinsons	30		5.4	
41	28	Hoss Gp	35	-1	2.7	
95	66	Howden	59	-1	5.1	9.0
219	162	Hunting	199		6.5	18.7
348½	286	IMI	317	-11	4.2	28.6
67	40½	Jetson & FBI	59		2.1	
614	499	Johnson Matth	521	-1	3.0	15.1
53½	28	Jones Shipman	47			
595	310	Kelsey Ind	570		3.5	14.5
290	265	Linread	288		3.6	14.2
20	11½	Locker (T) A	20		2.8	15.4
45	29	ML Hdgs†	41	+3	4.0	13.4
39	19	MS Intl	35		2.1	
236	137	Mang Bronze	235	+2	2.6	11.7
476	378	McKechnie†	399	+1	5.2	11.8
95	61	Meggitt	87	+1	5.6	23.4
126	81½	Metalrax	114		4.1	18.3
138	96	Metsec	98		4.0	20.7
825	487	Molins	775		2.6	13.5
415	293	Morgan Crucbl	383	-3	4.4	16.8
318	178	Morris Ashby†	271		3.2	14.1
53	32	Neepsend†	53		3.8	11.2
70	41	Neotronics	47	+4	4.5	9.6
41½	12	OBI Intl	14½		6.5	
391	233	Powerscreen†	375	+10	2.8	13.9
19½	4	Prospect Inds	4	-½	20.6	
73	60	Radiant Metal	65			
66	41	Ransomes	63			
86	61	Record	65		6.9	13.0
407	295½	Ranshaw	383		2.1	23.9
291	180	Renold†	230	-13½	2.9	13.0
58	36	Richard (Leics)	36	-1	7.8	12.5
99	66	Richardson West	78		5.6	12.8
194½	148	Rolls-Royce†	176½	+3½	3.5	25.3
180	158½	Rotork†	167		3.7	15.9
183	143	Rubicon	173		3.8	16.6
114	67	Senior Eng	93½	-½	4.6	33.1
335	263	Servomex	334		2.7	22.6
156	49	Spiral-Rite	155		1.2	26.8
795	498	Siebe	768	+2	2.0	21.1
99	67	Simon Eng	77	-1		
177	79	Six Hundred†	159	-1	1.8	11.4
1471½	1034½	SKF B	1212½	+16½	3.4	11.2
671½	423	Smiths Indt	639	+7	2.8	20.3
612	431	Spirax-Sarco	598	-½	2.5	18.7
293	227	Starling Ind	291		3.4	14.0
463	328	TI	435	+6	3.5	20.4
102	92	Tinsley (E)	99		7.3	13.4
101	51	Transtec	88		2.0	
184	127	Triplex Lloyd†	139		6.3	10.3
18	14	Utd Inds▼	15½		3.0	12.4
15½	6	Vercon	11	+½		
283	162	Vickers	252	-1	2.7	20.3
14½	8½	Villiers Grp	12			
734	506	Vinten	689		1.7	17.6
968	722	Vosper Thorny†	809	+6	3.4	14.8
516	435	Wagon Ind	436		5.6	12.4
231	199	Weir	215	-1	4.1	18.1
58½	36	Wellman	48½	+½	4.2	10.7
503	390	Whatman	420		3.6	13.6
11½	8½	Widney	10		3.5	

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
38	23	AAF Inds	26	-1		
294	153	Airflow Stream†	260		3.8	6.1
48½	41	Armour†	42		5.9	12.0
528	440	Avon Rubber†	488		4.5	
291	181	BBA	270	+1	2.3	
72½	48½	BSG†	56½		7.0	12.0
13	3½	Benson Group	6		2.5	
340	285	Bostrom	300		2.6	16.6
24	17	Boustead	24	+6	5.3	
14	9	Caverdale	11½	-½	3.0	7.6
357	245	ERF	249		2.3	14.5
503	370	First Tech	435		2.1	16.3
830	543	GKN	757	-5	3.7	15.5
3350	2343½	General Mtr	3262½	-25	2.4	
1307	846	Honda Motor	1256½	+23½	0.7	
448	304	Laird	379	+7	3.8	14.4
440	345	Lucas	415		0.3	
212	163	Locast	179	+7	4.9	54.6
98	53	Mayflower	92½		2.3	24.1
200	150	Syltone	181		3.5	16.7
197	119	T & N	160	+1	4.7	
378	324	Trinity Hldgs	335	+4	2.8	18.1

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
373	278	AB Foods†	370	+1	3.0	13.2
370	305	Acatos & Hutch	346	-3	4.7	
56	38	Albert Fisher†	49		9.6	12.0
279	195	Banks (S C)	275		4.5	14.0
387	330	Barr (AG)	334	-2	2.9	15.0
40	13	Bensons Crp	27			
445	335	Booker†	350	+11	8.1	17.8
47½	31	Borthwick†	34		4.8	24.6
373	191	CPL Aromas†	367	-2	1.4	22.9
557	370	Cadbury-Schw	524	-6	3.5	18.8
320	239	Carr Milling	318		3.4	
181	93	Cleghorn	99		2.8	13.1
198	145	Cranswick	195		5.7	12.3
484	377	Dalgety	399	+7	6.9	12.0
67	33½	Daniels S	45		0.3	
267	208	Devro	253		3.6	16.0
106	62	Everest	93		5.4	8.4
20½	3½	Farringford	17			
78	47	Finlay (James)	64		6.2	25.5
17½	10	Global	16		4.1	11.1
565	400	Greencore	563		2.7	
149	91	Hazlewood Fds†	96	+1	8.7	7.9
201	150	Hillsdown†	160½	-1½	7.2	10.8
31	22½	Hobson†	30½		3.3	35.0
85	55	JLI Group	59		10.8	9.8
353	305	Linton Park	311		6.0	7.6
123	92	Matthews (B)	92	-1	4.4	8.8
243	211	Nichols (JN)	233		3.3	15.0
221	165	Nthn Foods	171	+3	6.6	
14	8½	Nobrom Fn	11			8.2
230	80	Pascoe's	110			
52½	9	Pergiodeon (UK)	9½			
80	60	Perkins Food	68		8.2	9.6
140	73	SeaPerfect	83			
149	84	Sentry Farm	149		2.9	11.9
78	33	Sims Food†	33		11.4	11.0
479	412	Tate & Lyle†	452	+2	4.4	9.5
408	204	Treat	243		1.9	15.5
440	333	Unigate†	404	+4	5.7	13.9
1343	1124	Unilever†	1311	-2	2.6	15.8
9203½	7200	Unilever (NV)	9053½	-12½	2.8	13.5
368	350	Utd Biscuits†	255	+3	6.5	16.1
44	29	WT Foods	29		11.0	16.5
110	80	Yorkshire Food	80		5.6	9.1

HEALTHCARE

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1070	770	Amersham†	845	-4	2.5	18.2
102	43	Amgen	76	+19		
207	165	Assoc Nursg	168		2.3	12.9
359	238	Bespak	315		4.0	21.8
510	162	Biocomps Intl	459	+4		
81	60	Care UK	77	-1	1.2	
150	71	Celsis	131	+2		
265	198	Community H	250		4.4	12.8
37	28	CrestaCare	28		3.7	9.7
113	15	Enviromed	21	-2	8.3	2.7
86	54	Ferraris Group†	68		4.3	
166	110	Goldsborough†	124		3.9	
11½	8½	Greenacre	11½		4.7	14.0
833	439	Huntingdon Tec	768		1.1	28.4
77	35½	Intercare Gp	59	+2	7.8	
310	235	Isotron	304	-1	2.2	17.5
149	85	Life Sciences	87		6.3	9.0
141	85	Lon Intl	124	+1	1.5	
80	41	Medos-BNA	79		5.0	17.7
80	8	Premier Health	13			0.9
290	230	Quality Care	280	+3	2.1	13.9
248	118	Scholl	194	-1	4.3	
405	311½	Seton Health	393		2.4	19.1
190	32	Shield Diag	159	+7		
205	152	Smith & Neph	194½	+2½	3.5	22.4
35	7	Specialeyes	17	-1		0.6
228	183	Takare	185		1.6	12.7
285	234	UniChem†	248		3.7	14.0
356	283	West Hlthcare	328		2.1	14.6

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
228	173	Airsprung	189		3.6	10.3
162	98	BLP Group	99		3.9	8.1
47½	29	Bolton Bersep	42			22.3
108	56	Cornell Plc A	97		0.8	
170	120	Creighton Nat	129	+4	7.5	9.3
177	141	Derby Group	177		2.5	
145	127	Gaskell	138		3.8	10.7
463	345	IWP Intl	460		2.6	13.0
5	2	Lionheart	2½			
215	188	McBride	197		4.3	19.9
268	157½	Maybom▲	256		3.2	14.4
485	365	Osborne & Little	385		3.4	9.9
465	403	Paterson Zch	442		4.2	13.7
420	365	Paterson Zch 'A'	370	-1	5.1	11.5
714	584	Reckitt Colmn†	697	+9	3.4	16.1
291	236	Relyon	260		3.3	17.2
285	237	Royal Doulton	247	+4	3.9	12.3
216	148	Silentnight†	178		5.6	12.0
32½	20	Stoddard	20½		7.5	30.8
210	155	Tomkinsons†	168		8.6	
130	75	Victoria Carpet	75		3.3	
108	75	Walker Greenbk	81	+2	5.6	15.5
66	51	Wilford Widget	61½	+½	1.7	30.7
225	155	Wood (Arthur)	175		3.0	13.8

INSURANCE

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1675	1187½	Alex & Alex†	1268½	+16½	5.1	
2481½	1787½	Am Gen	2200	+12½	3.7	
98	76	Angerstein	89		4.3	28.3
63	51	Archer	54		2.3	
99	44	Bradstock	70		10.8	
744	385	Britannic	739	+5	2.4	
98	84	CLM Insce	94		2.8	
654	473	Com Union	625	+10	5.4	10.0
1660	1085	Dom & Gen	1535		2.7	15.5
194	158½	FBD E	188½	-½	3.9	7.9
164	126	Fenchurch Grp	141		7.9	
107	82	Finsbury Under	106		2.0	53.0
707	499	Gen Accident†	651	+28	5.8	8.7
292	160½	GRE†	265	+10	4.0	5.1
97	70	HCG Lloyds	90½		4.4	30.0
249	145	Heath C E†	150	+2	11.7	9.4
296½	203½	Hibernian IC	281½	+2½	3.8	29.6
111	88	Hiscox Select	105		2.6	41.4
363	256	Independent	333		3.8	7.3
260	178	Irish Life	250	-2	5.3	22.0
138	105	JIB Group	104		9.0	12.2
102	97	Kiln Capital	99		5.1	
722	414	Legal & Gen	670	+1	4.2	19.8
2025	1296½	Liberty Life	2009½	+16½	6.9	6.1
182	135½	Lloyd Thomp	160		7.0	9.7
486	317	Lloyds Abbey	462	+2	5.4	14.2
435	305	Londn & Man	401	+1	5.5	16.3
106	93	London Insce	100½		3.6	29.6
185	126	Lowndes Lmb	138	-3	7.7	7.6
5850	4787½	Marsh McLn	5787½	+12½	3.6	
101	79	Medhead	99		3.2	26.4
181	136	Nelson Hurst	142		6.2	9.1
88	65	New London Cap	83		5.6	29.9
65	34	Ockham	54	+3	7.1	
110	90	Orel	105		6.2	11.9
82	66	Premium Trust	81		4.6	18.5
122	85	Premium Under	122			
449	290	Prudential	415	+2½	4.5	17.7
38	13	PWS	20		2.2	
473	241	Refuge	435	-3	3.6	30.2
436	251	Royal	378	+5	4.3	7.3
169	104	Sedgwick	125	+3	6.7	10.2
122	33	Steel Burrill	35		26.8	3.5
414	281	Sun Alliance	367	-1	5.5	10.4
94	66	Syndicate Cap	93		3.7	26.8
81	61	Trade Indemnity	73		1.9	32.5
717	458	Utd Friendly	701		3.8	15.1
172	118	Willis Corroon†	144	+2	5.7	
24	12	Windsor	14		4.6	

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
447	335	3i†	421	+2	2.2	
81	62	Abtrust Emerg	70½	+2	0.4	
84	73	Abtrust High Inc	77½		10.0	
230	182	Abtrust N Dawn	211	-3½	0.7	
2047	1692	Alliance	2035	-15	3.1	
297	239	Anglo & O'seas	288	+3	2.4	
485	391	American Trust	482	+4	1.7	
151	108	Baillie Gifford SN	131	+2½		
215	172	Bankers	209	+3	2.5	
46½	38½	Baring Em Eu	38	+½		
364	300	Baring Tribe	362	+2	2.3	
96	84½	Br Assets†	92	+½	6.2	
97½	83	Br Empire Sec	93½	+1	1.3	
37½	25	Br Empire Wts	34	+½		
233	194	Br Inv†	225		1.9	
101	66	Brazilian	66½	+¼		
265½	211	Brunner	259	+2	2.8	
136	115	BZW Conv†	129½	+½	7.5	
508	318	Candover	498	+3	3.2	
53	34½	Central Euro Gwth	39½		1.4	
185	144	Chars & Eastern	174		2.6	
188	161	Cont Asset	179	+½	2.1	
80	75	Dana Inv Inc	75		13.3	
345	278	Derby Cap	338	+3		
166	148	Derby Inc	158		14.4	
736	617	Dunedin Inc & G	697	+1	4.8	
91	73	Dunedin Japan	85½	+½		
333	296	Dunedin Smlr†	315½		3.6	
42	18	Dunedin Wts	26	+2		
801	678	Dunedin Wrldwd	771	+4	1.5	
109½	82½	Edin Dragon	101½	+1½		
43½	21½	Edinburgh Inv	23½			
339	281	Edinburgh	317	+3½	3.8	
164	127	EFM Japan	164	+4		
376	307	Electra Inv	362	+1	2.6	
220	180	Electric Gen	217	+1	2.0	
145	108	English Scot	142			
350	273	European Asset	333		1.9	
199	147½	Fidelity Euro Val	193	+1	0.2	
83	62½	Fidelity Jap Val	74½	+1	0.2	
108	87	Fidelity Spec Val†	105	+1	0.6	
175	149	Finsbury 'A'	171½		3.5	
80	62	First Spanish	77		0.4	
357	267	Fleming Amer	289	+1	0.7	
74	51½	Fleming Chinese	53½	+½	1.2	
38	30	Fleming Ch Wts	25½	+½		
254	198	Fleming Claver	250		2.9	
357	288½	Fleming Contl	342		1.2	
156	125	Fleming Em Mkts	142½			
258	199	Fleming Entp	249		2.6	
360	278½	Fleming F East	342	+7½	0.6	
402	327	Fleming Fledg	397		0.9	
105	90	Fleming Hi Inct	98½	+1	5.8	
87	53	Fleming Indian	54½	+1	2.8	
46	24	Fleming In Wts	38			
40	29	Fleming Intl	39½	-½	11.9	
269	203	Fleming Japan	262	+7		
303	253½	Fleming Merc	285	-1	3.1	
97	72½	Fleming Nat Res	94			
335	269	Fleming O'seas	330	+2	1.7	
164	124	Foreign & Col	160	+1½	1.5	
110	91	For & Col Inc Gwth†	106	+1	3.8	
120½	93	Frgn Emg Mkts	102½	+2		
87	67½	Frgn Enterprise	85½		1.2	
263	204½	Frgn Eurotst	255		0.6	
135	115	Frgn German	125	+½	0.5	
181½	137½	Frgn Pacific	180	+4	1.0	
139	120	Frgn PEP†	135		3.6	
176	153	Frgn Smaller	172	+½	1.6	
132	90	Frgn US Smlr	129	+2		
24	17½	Fulcrum Cap	18			
46	33	Fulcrum Inc†	34			
164	141	Fulcrum Zero	163½			
220	188	Gartmore Brit	219		4.2	
213	174	Gartmore Ent	212		2.4	
189	127	Gartmore Eurot	169		0.9	
101	84	Gartmore Shrd†	89		13.5	
249	207	G'more Smlr Cost	244		2.9	
100	84	Geared Inc Inv	87		11.9	
183	138	Genl Cons Cap	171			
113	104	Genl Inct	105		11.1	
105	86	German Inv	99½	+½	0.3	
246	192	Gov Asn Sm Cos	211	+3½	0.2	
119½	88	Gov Eng Mkts	102	+1½	0.4	
197	135	Govett Am Smlr	190	+4		
89	71	Gov Glob Smlr	84	+1		
86	70	Govett High Inct	74	+½	9.5	
381	322	Govett Oriental	371	+6	0.4	
294	223	Govett Strategic†	287	+1	2.9	
443	361	Greenfriar	436		2.0	
19	6	Gresham House	6			
95	90	Gsm Fl Ex Inc	93	+1		
251	191	GT Japan	247	+6	0.6	
136	113	H Govett Smlr	128½		1.9	
128	113	Hend High	118	-1	6.2	
361	298	Hend Strata	360		0.5	
134	80	Herald	127		0.5	
106	78	High Income†	78		10.3	
107	67½	HTR Jap Smaller	92½	+½		
17	12	I&S Em	15			
119	93	I&S UK Smlrt	114		3.1	
146	118	Inv Cap	137	+½	4.8	
121	78	Inv Biotech	101	+1	1.2	
57	20	Inv Wts	34			
99	74	INVESCO Asia	95½	+2		
72	51	INVESCO Blue†	61		17.2	
139	88	INVESCO Eng Int†	138		0.7	
149	122	INVESCO Korea	135	+1		
61	49	INVESCO Tokyo	56½	+2		
99	82	J Fry 2nd Ut	89		9.4	
94	80	J Fry Euro U	81		6.8	
237	174	JF Fledg Jap	236½	+3½		
138	99	Jupiter Intl Grn	127		3.3	
249	194	Klnwt Chrl	244	+2	2.8	
121	96½	Klnwt E Mkt	111			
131	110	Klnwt End	131			
84½	73	Klnwt Euro Prvt	80	-½	3.6	
27½	21	Klnwt Euro Wts	22½			
91	74	Klnwt H Inct	77	-1	14.0	
273	213	Klnwt O'seas	268½	+2½	1.6	
140	111	Klnwt Smlr	136		2.2	
605½	427½	Korea—Euro	552½	+2	0.1	
125½	71	Latin American	94½	-½		
995	718	Law Debenture	939	+3	2.8	
102	77	Lloyds Sm Cap	100			
29½	26	Lloyds Sm Dev	26½		17.5	
130	102	Lloyds Sm Prg	127		3.6	
178	160	Lon St Lawrence	174		4.6	
355	283	Lowland†	338		3.7	
1387½	1125	Lydenburg	1225		1.9	
665	503	M&G 2nd Dual Cp	630	+2		
125	110	M&G 2nd Dual In	114			
3073	2533	M&G Dual Cap	3030	+5		
313	210	M&G Dual Inc	228			
66½	60	M&G Inc Geared†	65½		9.7	
33	26½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	31½	+½		
37½	31½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inc†	34		18.8	
130	116	M&G Inc Package†	129½	+½	4.9	
66½	54½	M&G Inc Zero Div	65½	-½		
30½	22½	M&G Rec Cap	29	+½		
61½	47	M&G Rec Geared	47		10.5	
30	24½	M&G Rec Inc	25½		19.9	
142	127	M&G Rec Package	138	-1	3.6	
92	73	M&G Rec Zero Div	91½			
122	100	M Currie Euro	113		0.4	
99	93½	M Currie Japan	98½	+2		
152	119	M Currie Pac	139	+3	0.1	
219	182	Majedie†	219	+2	3.3	
57	42	Marathon	43			
288	241	Merchants	282	+2	5.1	
92½	78½	Mercury Euro Pvt	89½	+½	1.9	
32	23½	Mercury Em Wt	25½			
99	78	Mercury World	90		0.9	
31	14	Mercury Wld Wts	15	+½		
577	482	Monks Inv Tst	566	+3	2.0	
164	125	Morg Grn Inct	158	+2	4.0	
63	40½	Morg Wts	58	+1		
88	48	Morg Lat Amer	58½	+¾		
49	20	Morg Wts	21½			
130	104	Murray Enl▼	113		2.6	
34	18½	Murray Enl Wts	18½			
92	72½	Murray Emrg Eco	81	+½	1.4	
40	18	Murray Em Ec Wt	21	+½		
65	54	Murray Euro	55½		0.8	
17½	6	Murray Eur Wts	6½			
379	308	Murray Income†	375	+2	4.0	
392	296	Murray Intl	377½	+1	4.2	
183	162½	Murray S/C Df	182½			
151	126	Murray S/C Cap	142			
81	72	Murray S/C Inct	72		18.0	
3250	2900	Murray S/C Ulst	3025		0.4	
460	376	Murray Small†	432½	+1	1.3	
377	308	Murray Vent	380		4.2	
19	11	Newmarket	15			
61	53	Nthrop Inc	59		10.2	
79	61	Nthrop Cap	66			
375	316	O'seas Inv Tst	371½	+2½	1.2	
199	156	O'seas Wts	174	+1		
147	90½	Pacific Assets	132	+6	0.3	
95	73½	Perpetual Jap	88½	+2		
288	216	Perpl Uk Sm Co	287		1.0	
£112½	8425	Personal Assets	£112		2.2	
126	104	Pilot Inv	104		2.3	
113½	87½	Prolific Inc	113½		4.0	
212	164	RIT Cap Ptnr	208	-1	0.9	
36	26½	River Merc Am Cap	35½	+½		
105	97	River Merc Am Inc	104		9.4	
11	6½	River Merc Am Wts	9½			
134	114	River Merc Cap	129	+1		
97	77½	River Merc Ex Inc	89		11.0	
16	7	River Merc Ex Inct	7			
85	78	River Merc Grd Inct	83		11.4	
29	25½	River Merc Grd Ptf	26			
112	106	River Merc Tst Inc†	106		10.9	
141	112	River Merc Sm Co	135		4.0	
43	20	River Merc Sm Wt	34			
485	394	Robeco	450	-15	3.1	
492	398	Rolinco	475	-15	1.6	
117	103	Schrod Inc Gwth†	111			
96	67	Schrod Jap Gwth	93½	+2		
861	635½	Schrod Korea	812½	-29½		
298	146	Schrod Mediterr	284	-3	0.3	
30	21½	Schrod Split Cap	21½			
113	100	Schrod Split Inct	101		9.7	
129½	109½	Schrod Split Zero	129			
122	88	Schrod UK Gwth†	118	+½	2.5	
257½	200	Scot	256½	+1	2.8	
171	147½	Scot American†	160½	+2	3.9	
305	216	Scot Asian	290	+3		
815	555	Scot Inv	768	+15		
95	74½	Scot Eastern	92½	+1	2.2	
252	206	Scot Mtge	250½	+1½	2.2	
97	78½	Scot Natl Tst†	93	+½	10.3	
117	100	Scot Value†	109½	-½	2.3	
1850	1483	Second Alliance	1840	+10	3.1	
93	76	Secs Tst of Scot	90	+½	4.7	
150	124	Selective Asset†	144		1.4	
142	123	SHIRESCOT†	136		5.2	
357	289	St Andrew Inv	348		3.0	
391	318	Temple Bar	379		4.7	
114	90	Thrmtn Asian E	107	-1½	0.6	
61	16½	Throg Dual Co	56			
85	68	Throgmorton	76½		3.8	
134	98	Tailton Emg Mkt	123	+2½	0.8	
172	139½	TR City Of Lon	168½	+1	4.0	
202	159	TR Euro Growth	197		1.1	
175	127	TR Far East†	171½	+2	4.4	
133	113	TR High Inc	127		6.3	
119	80	TR Pacific	112	+2	0.2	
31½	26½	TR Property†	27½		4.3	
208	171	TR Smlr Cos	202	+1	2.4	
208	100	TR Tech Inv	183	+4	1.9	
241	175	Turkey Trust	187	+4	1.5	
267	217	USDC Invest	267	+14	2.1	
117	93	Undervalued Ast	113		1.9	
130	108	Value Inc Tst†	124	+½	4.3	
88	78	Voyageur Er Sm	79		0.8	
36	30½	Warrants & Val	33½			
56	56	Wigmore†	56	-1	1.7	
266½	211½	Witan	261½	+1	3.0	
99	77	Yeoman Inct	77		22.2	

LEISURE & HOTELS

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
60	25	Abrdn Stk H	50			
449	308	Airtours	375	+6	4.9	10.6
44	14½	Akt Leisure▲	41			15.6
153	99	Alpha Airpts	102½		5.8	10.2
61	38	Arcadian	56	-1	1.8	
185	118	BS Group	130		2.9	17.8
168	111	Baldwin	152	-1	3.6	12.2
235	197	Barr & Wall	218		6.3	11.5
394	202	Bluebird Toys	322	+2	3.2	10.5
480	333	Boosey Hwks	478		1.6	26.2
76	42	Bnt for the Bdrt	66		3.1	17.3
3½	1½	Brent Walker	1½			
46	33	Burndene	38		6.3	12.9
25½	5½	Cashel Pic	8½		5.9	
358	248	Chrysalis	358	+8	7.0	
81	70½	City Centre Rest	93½		2.7	18.1
474	305	Compass Gp	470		4.0	
288	201	Eurocamp	205		6.5	9.6
250	118	Euro Disney	164	-1		
181	93	Euro Leisure	170			5.1
118½	56	First Choice	65	+1	7.1	
363	262	First Leisure	359	+1	2.5	21.3
356	224½	Forte	326	-2½	2.9	37.1
175	133	Friendly Hotels†	150		4.8	17.6
709	476	Granada	630	+1	2.4	15.1
218	108	Groupe Chez Ger	217	+9	1.4	25.8
38	16	Hi-Tec Sports	31		5.2	
168	96	Hornby	162	+5	3.9	13.9
233½	134	Jurys Hotel	233½	+1½	3.3	14.9
26½	14½	Konick	23½		3.3	
443	264	London Clubs†	417	+5	4.2	14.9
187½	132	Ladbroke	150	-3	5.0	45.6
64	29	Magnolia	29		0.4	
213	122	Man Utd	195	+3	2.9	8.2
97½	58	Mandarin Orntl	80	+1	4.5	17.2
152½	92½	My Kinda Town	118	+2		11.7
97	66	Northern▼	89		5.6	10.8
121	70	Pelican Gp	110½	+½	1.9	22.9
221	121	PizzaExpress	217	+1	1.3	25.8
141	76	Prism Leisure	135		4.4	10.2
20	5½	Queens Moat	14	-½		
285	217	Ransdens (H)	245		2.3	28.8
464	358	Rank Org	435	+4	4.0	14.7
37	26	Ryan Hotels E	34		4.7	11.9
1058	845	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1040		0.8	54.9
89½	74½	Stakis	81		2.7	
398	314	Stanley Leisure	360		2.1	18.9
346	280	Tanjong	346		1.0	23.1
1614	997	Thorn EMI	1529	-9	3.0	24.0
236	117	Tottenham Hot	230		1.6	7.5
113	63	Toy Options	94	+1	3.5	
253	161	VCI	253	+1	2.1	17.3
156	100	Vardon	102	+1½	1.9	15.3
650	216	Wembley	302			
135	96	Zetters Gp	128		9.8	10.0

MEDIA

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
490	335	Abbott Mead	469	-3	2.1	27.8
310	260	Adscene	268		3.7	14.9
40	32	Anglo Gp	38½			15.3
7½	1½	Allied Radio	4			
13	9	BBB Design	11			
315	155	Barbour Index	310		3.6	38.2
10½	4½	Birkdale	7½			
345	315	Black (A&C)	325		5.4	12.6
281	174	Blenheim Grp†	254	+6	5.1	15.7
254	196	Border TV	253		2.1	20.7
368	335	Bristol	355		4.7	18.3
461	242	BSkyB	405	+3	0.8	45.9
750	126	CIA Gp	133		1.8	26.2
30	22	Caledonian Med	24½			
532	343	Capital Radio†	532	+7	2.4	
1082	651	Carlton Comms	946	+5	1.5	
100	83	City of Lon†	85		7.4	10.8
116	83	Cordiant	90			
1431½	1181½	Daily Mail	1321½	+9½	1.7	
1209½	959½	Daily Mail 'A'	1168½	+9½	1.9	
558	295	Dorling Kind	528		0.9	43.1
574	385	EMAP†	530	+1	2.6	20.6
904½	584½	Elsevier	824½	-1½	2.7	20.7
1625	930	Euromoney Pb	1058	+3	5.3	
25½	10	Fitch	22			14.5
509	333	Flextech	463	-4		
240	143	GGT Group	239		2.8	19.4
180	109½	GWR Gp	179		1.6	
203	201	Headline Group	202		2.7	13.2
26	13	Goodhead	18		0.3	
222	130½	Grampian†	218		2.7	18.7
302	132	HTV Group	282		1.2	30.1
353	255	Haynes Pub	290		4.1	14.3
50	23	Highbury Hse	23			
390	233	Hodder H'line	262		3.0	15.6
163	137	Home Counts	162		4.2	18.5
348	226	IBC	286	-2	3.5	12.2
13½	6½	Incepta	10½			5.0
399	248	Independent	333		2.8	18.8
135	98	Interoute	100		9.8	
169	136	Johnson Press	144	-1	1.8	17.4
25	15	Lopex	16		3.9	15.4
355	63	MAID	213	-10		
657	528	Metal Bulletin	649		2.5	27.3
133	109	Midland Ind	127		3.3	13.3
189½	120	Mirror Gp	178	-1	2.6	11.6
483	344	More O'Ferrall	456		3.7	18.8
385	231	News Corp	358	-4	0.4	10.5
338	207	News Intl	314		1.3	12.4
35	15	Osprey Comms	21		1.2	
625	538	Pearson	604	+10	3.2	17.7
267½	155	Phonelink	169			
606	523	Portsmth Sundt	580		2.6	14.6
281	210	Quarto	253		3.1	12.6
1050	712	Reed Intl	983	+6	2.9	24.9
631	404	Reuters	582	+14	1.6	24.8
334	222½	Scott Radio	311	-1	2.7	
515	393	Scot TV	479	+2	4.1	31.5
35	20½	SelecTV	29½	-½		50.0
41	32	Shandwick	36½		4.5	8.5
65	33	Sleepy Kids	42	+3		22.5
274	222	Southnews	259		2.3	16.0
98	20	Sterling Pub	28			
45	33½	Taylor Nelson	39½		2.2	30.1
453	355	Telegraph	418	-2	3.9	31.3
115	102	Television Cp	108	+3	5.1	
885	725	Thomson Corp	845	+10	5.2	17.8
352	301½	Trinity Intl	340		3.9	13.1
1047	632	Ulster TV	1044	+1	2.7	20.2
571	464	United News	551		5.2	14.5
131	85	VTR†	126		4.4	13.0
167	101	WPP	158		0.9	21.8
68	55	Wilmington	66			31.0
702	366	Yorkshire TV	687	-1	1.4	73.5

MINING

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4625	3693½	Ang Am Coal†	3912½		3.0	14.5
4196½	2848½	Ang Am	4046½	-12½	2.1	28.7
6497½	4975	Ang Am Gold	5300	-18½	4.2	15.1
32	22	Anglo Pac Res	25			
40½	17	Arcon Intl	23½	+½		
1600	1100	Ashanti	1309½	+12½	1.9	
117	74	Ashton	87		6.1	
263	133	Balyrorat	259	-1		
622	337½	Beatrix	577	+18½	3.8	26.4
34	28	Bisichi	38	-2	3.2	
117½	78½	Blyvoors	105½	+½		
37	24	Bougainville	30	-1		
19	7½	Bracken	9½		9.1	
583½	218½	Buffels	219½	+¾		
4	1½	Butte	2½			
1076	781	CRA	1046	+20	2.8	24.1
66	40	Central Pacific	66			
107	41	Cluff Res	106			
120	25	Coal Invst	25			
225	115	Cons Murchison	115	-6	5.4	3.1
2043½	1262½	De Beers	1981½	+25	2.7	21.9
108½	47	Deelkraal	52	+½		
997½	693½	Driefontein	768½	+2½	4.2	24.1
795½	409½	Durban	487½	+1½		
210½	127½	E Rand Gold	162½	+½	13.6	7.3
76½	31½	E Rand Prop	32½			
70	45	Eastern Trans	64		1.8	61.6
450½	271½	Elandsrand	317	+1	3.1	10.8
415	285	Eng China Cl	311	+5	6.6	15.1
975½	519½	FS Cons	536½	+1½	5.1	19.5
62	31	FS Dev	36		3.5	
2087½	1418½	GFSA	2018½		1.9	27.2
63	40	GM Kalgoorli	60	+1	2.4	
248½	186½	Gencor	227½	+½	1.6	20.0
155	136	Gold Fields Prop	154		6.9	6.9
19	12½	Greenwich R 'A'	14½			
182½	116½	Grootvlei	146½	+½	6.1	18.3
108½	76½	Gwalia Cons	103½	+1½	0.9	19.9
657½	457½	Harmony	599½	+2	1.2	17.0
296½	155½	Hartebest	162½	+½	9.2	12.7
1743½	1150	Impala Plat	1296½		2.4	19.0
12	7	Kidston	8½	+2	14.0	7.8
1987½	478½	Kinross	606½	+3½	7.3	7.2
946½	590	Kloof	597½	+2	4.5	22.4
124½	65	Leslie	68½	+½	11.7	5.7
288	174½	Loraine	185½	+½		
21	12	Moeltalhama	14			
113	77	MIM	88		2.7	
1975	1250	Minorco	1875		2.2	33.5
181	36	Monarch	84			
165	90	Montagle	160		2.4	12.1
109	77½	NSM	77½		8.9	6.9
191	133	Nth Brkn Hill	177	+2	3.0	25.7
108	86	Pancontinental	102			
265	123	Petaling Tin	240	+2	0.9	
182	116	Placer Pac	130	+2	2.2	
548	317	RJB	546		2.9	15.1
957	721	RTZ	930		3.3	13.5
54	24	Rachwood	49		2.6	12.5
743½	543	Rand Mines	543		2.7	33.3
737½	320½	Randfontein	414½	+1½	8.3	17.1
325	175	Renison	320	+12	1.5	13.3
1753½	1090½	Rustenburg	1162½	+3½	3.3	
73	35	St Barbara	38		3.8	9.4
623½	324	St Helena	369½	+1½	14.9	5.6
385	207	Sons Gwalia	346		3.5	22.1
31	16	Sthern Pacific	31	+3		
2016½	1353½	Southvaal	1678½	+6½	4.6	21.7
123	38½	Stilfontein	48½	+½	29.5	4.9
210½	129½	Unisel	170½	+½	6.8	12.3
5800	3359½	Vaal Reefs	4290½	+16½	3.8	9.3
19	8	Wankie Col Z	16		7.7	3.8
1½	0½	Water Hall	1½			
533	473	Watts Blake	530		3.4	17.5
2587½	1653½	Western Deep	2243½	-6½	2.7	11.4
449½	302	Western Mng	425½	+1½	-1.4	43.4
881½	416½	Winkels	482½	+3½	8.0	9.6
48	30	Zambia Copper	30			
53	38	Zandpan	30		7.7	

OIL & GAS

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
62	34	Abbot Group	55			
79½	39½	Aran Energy	77			
56½	41	Aus Oil & Gas	45½	+½		
58	37	Aviva Pet	39			
337	220	Br Borneo	337	+4	2.8	15.7
317½	222½	British Gas	250	+10½	7.2	18.7
546½	392	Br Petroleum†	529	+10	3.3	15.4
3	2	Bula Resources	2			
989	815	Burmah Castrol	931	+19	4.2	15.2
117	69½	Cairn Energy	117	+3		
280	218	Calor Gp	241		6.5	13.4
61½	36	Clyde Pet	59	-½	2.2	12.3
14	5½	Copley Res	9½			
2½	1½	Dragon Oil	1½			
22½	18	Edin Oil & Gs	21½			12.1
424	329	Enterprise	389	+11	5.1	22.0
280	230	Flogas	235		5.4	10.7
8½	5	Fortune	8			59.0
98	62	Goal Pet	96½		1.9	14.7
42	11½	GI Western Res	11½			
202	129	Hardy O & G	202	+4	0.6	
7½	4½	Intl Tool & Sup	5½			
236	155	JKX Oil & Gas	158	+1		
186	139	LASMO	175		0.7	
55	33	Lasmo Units	40		25.9	
70½	57	Monument	57½	-½		36.6
2918½	2134½	Norsk Hydro	2686½	+9½	1.6	14.6
50	27	Oceanics	27			
58	38	Oil Search	55			
41½	27	Petroz	27			
29½	22½	Premier	27	+1		16.4
43	11	Presidio#	11			
96	41	Pittencrieff Rs	49		1.3	
388	221	Ramco Egy	378	+1	0.3	52.2
453	330	Ranger	400	+5	5.2	
8925	6865½	Royal Dtch Pl	8790½	-12½	4.1	16.3
4496½	3218½	Schlumberger	4426½	+16½	2.2	
49	24	Scott Pickford	29		3.9	19.9
116	72	Seafield	73	+1		38.3
862½	687	Shell	845	+11	4.3	18.8
4318½	3334½	Total	4075	+50	3.9	14.4
14½	8½	Villers Grp	12			
346	221	Woodside	346	+7	1.1	
58	38	XCL	28			

OTHER FINANCIAL

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
101	75	BWD	77		6.8	12.5
78	38	Berry Bch Mt	40		8.1	11.3
285	148	Biotec Inv	237			
158	112	Brewin Dolphin	153		4.9	15.9
719	625	Caledonia†	719		3.0	22.3
2400	1900	Camellia	2000		2.3	18.4
22½	13	Carlisle	19	-½	1.6	20.2
217	142	Cattles	212		3.6	16.7
35	16	Christie	24			
17½	13½	EFG	15½	-½	4.0	3.1
98	61	EFT Group	92		2.5	16.6
775	653	EFM	656		4.6	15.4
186	109	Exco	110		6.8	5.6
305	161	Gartmore	279		2.5	24.2
379	220	Govett	234		9.5	3.8
1272	963	Henderson Adt	1155		4.9	23.6
256	162½	Invesco	252	+4	2.1	17.3
49	41	Investment Co	41		7.1	12.3
234	198	Ivory Sime	232½		4.2	17.1
248½	164½	Jardine Strat	188	+2	5.0	6.0
144	85	Johnson Fry	114		4.4	8.0
217	131	Lon Forfaiting	216	+1	5.5	15.4
171	116	Lon Scott Bk	170		3.2	19.8
182	146	Man ED & F†	147		8.2	7.5
1353	953	M & G	1260		3.2	
346	224	MAI	303	+2½	3.6	15.1
130½	78	MAI 5.9% Cv Pf	112½		6.6	
966	680	MAM	869	+3	4.0	19.2
130	92	Nat Home Loan†	102	-3	1.2	3.5
1850	1150	Perpetual†	1840	-3	3.3	
852	515	Provident	815	+1	3.8	17.8
330	245	Rathbone Bs	327		3.6	16.8
41½	24½	Rutland Tst	38		4.2	17.0
355	281	S & U	289		5.6	8.5
133	105	SJP Capital†	112		3.3	21.2
525½	305½	Swire Pacific	503	+11½	2.4	19.6
78	42	Towry Law	42	-1	7.4	
371	302	Transatlantic	349		5.0	23.4
26	4	Trio Hldgs	4½		2.8	7.4
26	19	Western Selectn	23		1.4	

PHARMACEUTICALS

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2100	425	Brit Biotech	1698	+8		
345	103	Cantab Pharms	338			
614	233½	Celltech	579	+3		
375	92½	Chiroscience	334			
188	31	Cortecs	160	+7		
288	103	Fisons	264		1.2	
912½	587	Glaxo Wellcome	886	+8	4.2	20.3
294	162	Medeva	265	+1	1.7	17.0
719	273	Scotia	544	+19		
714	444	SmithKline†	671	+7	2.5	19.9
703	416	Smkline Ulct	659	+4½	2.6	19.6
1337½	840	Zeneca	1222	+4	2.9	24.9

PRINTING & PAPER

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
142	120	AG Holdings†	130		5.5	12.0
553	377	API	553		2.3	
290	147½	Arjo Wiggins	162	+7	5.8	7.3
50	31	Ashquay Grp	50			
260	162	Aspen Comms	239		3.0	17.8
426	347	Bemrose	396		4.2	12.7
3471½	1675	Bowater Inct	2218½	+81½		
429	280	Bowmore Intl	420		1.4	19.7
700	474	Br Polythene	646		2.9	14.8
40	21	Br Thornton	23	-1	5.4	7.8
162	112	Britton Grp	158		2.1	16.8
218	159	Bunzl†	199	+2½	3.3	13.7
187	137	Capital Inds	172		3.6	12.3
2916½	2046½	Carnaud MB	2878½	+6½	2.0	17.2
314	237	Cropper (James)†	287		1.6	19.1
1054	625	De La Rue†	640	+8	4.5	13.5
108	52	Delyn Group	90	+2	2.7	11.9
131	93	Dolphin Pack	131		4.5	16.6
100	81	Fairway Group	95		4.9	13.9
352	205	Ferguson Intl	224		7.4	9.9
192	102	Ferry Pick	192		3.9	17.2
206	138	Inveresk	176		4.0	15.7
295	245	Jarvis Porter†	280	-2	2.8	14.9
548	381	Low & Bonar	468		3.2	14.0
74	50	MY Holdings†	66		3.8	12.9
224	152½	Macfarlane	209	+2	2.0	19.8
332	150	Photobition	327	+5	2.4	21.9
230	163	Plysu	170		4.9	19.0
519	327	REXAM	348	-1	5.1	11.3
461	324	St Ives Gp	456	+1	2.3	18.0
1329½	886	Sappi	908½	+9½	0.6	
9½	5½	Sarif	7			
205	125	Sidlaw	126			10.9
339	241	Smith David	273		3.1	10.7
215	148	Smurfit (Jeff)	151	+2	3.1	8.8
99	79	Sercol	79		4.7	6.8
261	213	Waco	240	-2	2.9	11.3
236	187	Waddington (J)†	207		5.4	12.5
445	350	Watmough	436	+1	2.5	18.6
193	131	Wyndeham	185	-1	3.0	16.8

PROPERTY

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
93	60	Allied Lon†	60½	-½	8.3	5.5
316	255	Argent	298½			
90	66	Arlington Ests	70		2.7	16.8
138	103	Asda Prop	120		2.6	30.0
258	210	Bilton	211		5.9	15.0
219	131	Bixby	139	+3	6.9	8.3
27	7	Bolton Gp	20			
73	43	Bourne End†	43		3.3	57.9
203	171	Bradford†	199		4.7	18.5
123	96	Brightstone	98		4.5	20.6
436	354	Br Land	388	+4	2.5	30.9
202	163	Brixton	174		6.1	16.1
106	60½	Burford	103	+1	2.2	27.5
101	92	CLS Hldgs	94		6.7	12.9
172	131	Cap & Regnl	148		1.9	16.0
225	187	Cap Shop Ctrs	215	+1	4.1	25.8
229	135	Cardiff Prop	153		2.1	27.7
39½	10	Cathay Intl	11½			
190	143	Chelsfield	174	+1	1.9	38.1
468	422	Chesterfield	436		3.7	19.0
88	55	Chesterton Intl	67		5.6	9.4
53	36	City Site Ests	39	+1		9.1
8	5	Clarke Nickolls	7½		3.7	10.6
102	97	Compco	102		4.1	12.9
30	19	Con Rlbtal	19		3.0	26.8
1205	1160	Daejan	1160		3.4	11.2
7	2½	Dares Estates	3	+½		
95	41	Debenham Twsn	45		9.7	8.3
163	136	Dencora	137		3.4	13.5
315	225	Derwent Hldgs	311		2.1	18.2
196	130	Development Sec	174		1.7	
46	31	Dwyer	38		3.9	
37	25	Elco	31			17.4
400	250	Estates Agency	400		4.6	
24½	13	Estates Gen	13			
119	82	Evans Of Leeds†	107		3.3	16.0
27½	18	Ex-Lands†	20½		3.0	
69	52	Fiscal Prop	57		4.2	17.5
26½	21	Five Oaks	22		4.0	10.5
32	16	Fletcher King	19		6.6	
60	41	Folkes Group	59		3.4	7.8
59	34	Folkes Group nv	55		3.8	7.3
499	405	Frogmore	452	+2	5.0	
282	236	Grainger	241		3.4	
198	159	Gr Portland†	170	+1	6.4	13.4
161	117½	Greycoat	143		0.5	
42	22	Hambro Cntye	39½		0.2	
398	310	Hammerson	345	+2	3.6	24.1
332	300	Helical Bar	317		2.6	12.2
28½	22	Hemingway	23½		2.9	16.2
31	7	Herring Baker#	10½			
50	26	High-Point	31		2.0	
148½	88½	HK Land	116½	-1½	6.4	13.0
165	153	Jermyn	160		2.0	
2	0½	Kentwell				
645	545	Land Secs†	599	+5	5.3	17.5
326	263	London Ind†	284		4.8	15.1
37	28	Lon & Assoc†	27	+1	3.1	14.1
9	4½	Lon & Metro	5			
107	86	Lon Merch Sec	92		6.0	20.5
418	358	MEPC†	388	+5	6.4	
7½	5½	McInerney A	5½			
165	122	McKay Secs	124		5.2	16.1
80	48	Merivale Mre	67	+1	7.0	9.7
35	25	Moorfield Est	31		4.0	16.8
1250	850	Mountview	1050		3.3	8.8
151	124	Mucklow (A&J)	135		6.0	18.4
83	73	ORB	76	+2		
32	23	Owen Prop	25		1.5	32.4
146	125	PSIT	126½		5.3	14.9
319	204	Peel	308		2.2	
178	139	Pillar Propt	140½	+1½	4.0	38.4
2½	1½	Power Corp#	2			
6½	3½	Premier Land	4½			14.9
111	70	RPS Group	110		3.6	14.5
34	17½	Raglan	17½		7.7	5.5
28	18	Regalian	21½	-½		25.0
163	100	Rowlinson Secs†	143		2.0	11.1
102	88	Rugby Est	89		3.0	7.8
57	40	St Modwen Prp	55		4.1	8.0
68	54	Saville Grdn (J)	54		6.9	12.6
63	42	Savills	52	+1	6.0	9.5
81	67	Scot Met†	71		4.4	11.0
124	86	Shaftesbury†	123		1.5	16.4
243	189	Slough Estates	212		4.8	25.8
220	185	Smart (J)	208		5.4	9.9
55	37	Southend Prop	41		8.0	
110	101	Specty Shops	101		1.6	14.1
55	33½	TBA▲	53		0.4	20.0
167	124	Tops Ests	124		2.4	31.8
104	85	Town Centre†	94		4.3	14.7
101	79	Trafford Park	97		4.3	10.4
66	33	Uk Land	64	-2	2.0	7.1
61	40	WSP Group	44	-1	6.0	9.9
219	192	Warner	203		7.0	17.2
235	203	Warnford	204		4.8	16.8
79	63	Wates	66	-½		
35	25	Whitney Mk	28			
66	33	Wood John D	36		6.9	9.0

RETAILERS, FOOD

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
111	64½	ASDA Group	109½	+4½	2.7	16.2
369	254½	Argyll†	317	+8	4.8	13.6
718	455	Brake Bros†	660		1.6	19.9
38	23	Budgen	31	-1	4.4	29.2
18	11½	Cullens	14		4.5	19.7
89½	45	Dairy Farm Intl	53½	+2½	7.3	7.6
355	302	Farepak	305		3.2	14.9
55	38	Fitzwilton†	50		5.6	21.7
115	95	Fyffes	108		1.9	15.4
200	103	Geest†	152		6.7	60.7
1283	1048	Greggs	1153		2.6	15.9
196	142	Iceland Group	150		4.4	9.0
732	494	Kwik Save†	495	-5	5.1	9.1
19½	10	Merchant Retail	16½			11.5
170	132	Morrison (W)	134	-1	1.2	13.3
199	126	Nurdin Peack	155		5.7	16.5
128	83	Park Foods	85		4.2	14.7
30	7½	Regina Hlth	11½			
479½	363	Sainsbury J†	373	+6	4.0	12.4
339	236	Tesco	285½	-5½	3.9	13.6
175	128	Thorntons	140		4.7	16.0
531	358	Watson& Philip	531	+3	3.7	18.6

RETAILERS, GENERAL

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
84	21	Alexon	82½			
244	162	Allders	165		5.5	
615½	324	Argos	595	-3	2.5	25.1
131	63	Ashley (Laura)	129			
251	54	Aspray	250		0.6	34.3
225	169	Austin Reed	169	-1	4.4	9.8
146	123	Beattie (J) 'A'	138		5.9	15.1
124	95	Benlalls	98	+1	2.7	10.8
88	38	Bettaware†	68½	-1	4.9	38.2
51	30	Blacks Leis	49		5.8	24.8
194	107	Body Shop†	157	+5	2.1	9.3
596	485	Boots†	574	+8½	3.8	15.8
54	18	Brown & Jackson	22			
276	205	Brown (N)†	268		2.4	20.4
135½	66	Burton	133	+¼	2.1	26.8
150	90	Carrers	113		3.3	19.5
403	235	Carpetright	408		3.2	24.4
219	132	Christies Int	209		1.3	35.5
480	353	Church	353		4.8	14.5
109	67	Clinton Cards	106	+3	5.7	13.3
164	84	City Centre	144	+1	4.7	
813	708	Courts Furnsh	745		1.1	21.7
220	183	Crown Eye	195		7.1	8.0
384	238	DFS Furniture	384	+3	2.7	23.2
425	188	Dixons Grp	421	+1	2.2	25.4
580	580	Elys (Wimbldn)	580		3.9	36.9
11½	5½	ERA Gp	9			13.9
161	77	Essex Furnt	106		5.1	
236	147	Etam	192		4.1	
460	320	Fine Art Dev	413		4.7	12.8
66	37	First Earth	66		1.9	23.8
144	81	Flying Flowers	139		1.9	18.1
295	183	French Conn	185			12.0
269½	193	Frost Group†	195		4.1	16.4
91	46	Gieves	72		3.7	17.6
227	112	Goldsmiths Gp	226	+1	1.3	28.5
685	506	GUS	666	-2	2.9	17.5
350	179	Hamleys	347		2.8	15.5
73	26	Hampden Gp	71	-2	2.6	42.7
175	125	Hse of Fraser	170	+3	4.0	21.9
83	57	Hughes (TJ)	60		5.5	13.3
168	95	Innovations	135		1.7	68.3
534	229	JJB Sports	130		1.4	24.7
544	379	Kingfisher	532	+4	3.6	12.9
158	100	Kingsbury Grp	152	+3	1.9	32.3
365	208	Liberty	315	+½	2.9	19.2
305	184	Lloyds Chem	282		4.3	9.2
165	108	MFI	161½	+1	3.3	21.2
457	371	Marks Spencer†	429	+1	2.9	18.7
645	500	Menzies (John)	618		2.6	14.1
618	338	Moss Bros	533½	-7½	2.8	25.8
469	252	Next†	460			
54	27	OEM	40			
96	34	Oliver (G)	57		2.2	13.5
405	243	Ottaline Intl	404		3.5	16.0
83	70	Partridge Fine	70		5.9	9.6
58	47	OS Hldgs	47		13.8	12.3
17½	5½	Rhino Grp	14	-½		
193	113	Rosebys	150		3.2	22.2
120½	95½	Sears	100½		4.3	16.0
24	11½	Signet Group	17	-1½		
484	321	Smith WH	425	+1	4.6	15.9
950	638	Sotheby's	830	+15	1.3	
349	209	Storehouse†	331	-6	3.5	29.4
140	112	Stylo	120		4.9	18.8
203	143	T & S Stores	182	-1	4.6	11.5
165	98	Tie Rack†	165	+1	2.7	17.3
4½	1	Upton & Southern	2½			
599	424	Vendome†	587	+2	2.2	20.6
35	14	WEW Group†	16		5.5	9.5
67	35	Wld of Leather	53		3.5	64.1
196	155	Wyevale	196	+1	3.3	17.8

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
565	476½	Allied Domecq†	520	+5	5.7	20.9
500	390	Bulmer (HP)	498		3.1	18.6
146	99	Burn Stewart	137	-½	4.6	29.5
461½	352	Grand Met	440	-1	4.3	15.2
536	404	Guinness	453	-3	3.8	14.2
445	323	Highland Distl	323	-1	5.1	14.6
217	175	Macallan-Glen	189		0.9	41.9
710	600	Macdn Mrtn 'A'†	625		2.2	17.6
681	532	Matthew Clark	674	+4	3.3	
140	61	Mrvdn (V)	118		2.1	
259	129	Taunton Cider	246		3.6	24.0

SUPPORT SERVICES

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
945	620	ADT	873		1.2	20.2
41	22	Alphameric	27			6.4
74	18	Auto Sec	21	-1		
145	101½	BET Ord†	125	+2½	4.2	12.5
178	128	BNB Res	128		5.6	10.8
293	220	BPP	285		4.4	16.5
199	131	BSM	153		5.4	11.6
9½	0½	Black & Edg#	9			
1150	500	Borland	1052½			
215	105	Brit Data Mgt	120		5.6	27.5
96	59	Brooks Service	80		3.9	17.2
347	298	CMG	326	-1	1.8	16.9
121	75	CRT Gp	115		4.2	18.1
289	138	Capita Group	280		1.6	25.9
100	16	Cardinal Bus	21			
359	277½	Chubb Sec	337	+8	2.8	17.7
94	58½	Corp Services	92	+1	4.1	15.7
61	48	Coulls Cresig	49		4.4	
102	85	DCS Gp	79	+2	1.6	16.7
266	204	Davis Service	214	+2	5.1	12.6
358	223	Delphi	345		1.3	43.2
107	66	Dudley Jenks	99		4.3	15.2
94	38	EW Fact	44		8.5	6.1
183	114	El Data Prc	115	-1½	2.4	
403	280	Hays	367	+4	2.4	18.7
218	145	Hogg Robinson†	216	+1	4.6	13.2
2031½	1268½	ISS B DKr	1453½	-3½	1.8	12.9
415	152	JBA Hldgs	386		1.1	43.6
279	222	Johnson Clean	255	-1	5.3	14.4
117	80	Kalamazoo	111	+5	4.4	11.0
351	239	Kewill Syst	343		2.4	12.3
27	11	Laser-Scan	16			
387	77	LBMS	309	-4		
503	301	Logica	463	-1	1.7	21.6
107	49	MDIS	61	-3	10.6	13.4
293	180	MMT Comp†	246		3.2	15.1
126	54	MR Data Mgt	66	-4	6.9	45.8
473	368	Macro 4	423		6.5	11.5
2140½	1553½	Manpower	1625	-9½	0.6	
840	553	Micro Focus	565			
183	102	Microgen	179		5.1	15.4
635	305	Misys	582	+1	2.1	16.0
309	197	MITIE Gp	309	+8	1.2	25.4
36	22	Nova Group	35	-1	4.3	11.1
25	15	OIS Intl	19		2.1	
32	18	Orbis†	30		2.7	14.6
163	74	P & P	152	-1	2.3	15.4
175	110	Michael Page	167		2.5	18.6
184	106	Parity	175		1.4	21.4
245	138	Pegasus	219		2.9	15.8
110	75	Pennant	84		1.5	49.0
73	18	Proudfoot	29		8.6	
305	190	RCO	191		10.5	7.6
60½	33	Radius	55	-1	2.6	15.2
202	150	Real Time	172		3.2	11.8
144	98	Reed Executive	105		2.4	12.0
235	142	Reliance Sec	221		3.5	20.7
337½	212½	Rentokil	329	+2	1.4	25.4
163	130	Ricardo Group	130		6.1	14.4
293	158	Rolfe & Nolan	270		2.0	40.0
355	132½	Sage Gp	326		0.9	
291	229	Salvesen (C)†	285	+2	4.0	13.3
148	79	Sanderson Elect	142		3.3	16.5
17½	11½	Select App	17			30.1
546	380	Serco Gp	536		1.0	25.6
380	238	Serco Gp	369	-4	1.4	28.9
189	80	Sherwd Cmp	184			
143	83	Sketchley†	126		3.5	16.3
24	11	Standard Plat	17			
220	167	Stat-Plus	205		6.1	18.8
890	116	Unipalm	650			
25	11½	Vistec	22½		2.9	
295	235	Warner Howard†	235		4.4	11.2

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
415½	340½	BT	346½	+5½	6.5	12.2
477	350½	Cable Wireless†	451	-2	2.6	19.1
209	185½	General Cable	190			
147	116½	NYNEX Cable	117			
1765	1475	Securicor	1678		0.3	
1130	860	Securicor A	880	-3	0.6	
1058	728	Security Serv	890		1.1	
195	157	TeleWest	157			
285½	177½	Vodafone†	223½	+12½	2.1	27.4

TEXTILES & APPAREL

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
80	49	Albion	49		6.1	2.6
180	115	Alexdra W	179	+2	4.3	18.6
258	213	Allied Text	230		3.8	13.5
111	72	Alldes	109		9.3	20.1
34	26	Automagic#	26			6.6
246	172½	Baird (Wm)†	174	-1	6.7	12.3
60	36	Beckman (A)†	59		5.3	
386	229	Black (Peter)	272		2.3	17.4
161	111	Bridport-Grdn†	159	-1	2.8	19.1
213	123	Br Mohair	134	+3	8.4	8.4
28	14	Campari	27			
185	61	Chamb Phipps	77	-1	13.5	4.4
342	253	Claremont Gar†	270		4.4	13.0
221	164	Coats Viyella†	173	+4	6.3	11.6
512	365	Courtauld Text	369	-4	5.2	10.6
160	113	Dalkeith	155		4.8	8.6
129	92½	Dewhurst	107		3.5	
194	129½	Dewhirst (IJ)	179		2.1	17.2
41	30	Dinkie Heel	34		5.1	8.6
38	25	Drummond†	26½		3.9	8.1
26	13	Ebiel	17½			
67	23	Fapel	25		10.5	5.0
470	280	FII	443		4.2	
153	120	Ferraulis	121		3.6	9.3
21	11	Foster (John)	11			
95	68	French	69		6.6	14.1
103	73	Gent SR	87		3.6	7.9
129	85	Haggas	127½		2.9	16.7
18½	7½	Hartstone†	10½	-½	3.9	31.8
27	12½	Helene Plc†	12½	-½	13.1	5.6
313	213	Hicking Pntcst†	313	+2	2.3	17.4
26	12½	Hollas	13		5.4	
71	29	Honeysuckle†	38		7.1	8.8
133	80	Horace Small	90½		7.2	
218	178	Jacques Vert	182		4.6	8.4
79	56	Jerome (S)	75		2.9	7.5
455	327	Jones Stroud	444	-4	2.8	16.5
157	118	Lambert	138		6.4	10.6
357	215	Lamont	248		6.5	9.8
306	241	Leeds†	261	+7	3.2	
73	42	Leslie Wise Gp	52	+1	10.2	8.6
84	54	Lyles (S)	55			
29½	23	Marling	23		3.6	12.4
10	4½	PEX	9			
210	135	Parkland†	182		3.9	7.9
147	102	Pentland	113		3.5	16.3
73	41	Pittards	55		2.8	
74½	58½	Readicut†	70		6.1	18.6
81	54	Richards†	66		6.4	7.0
56	38	Ricards	38		6.7	
76	50	SEET	64			
124	75	Sherwood Gp	107	+3	3.9	12.9
142	92	Shiloh	98		4.8	6.5
107	89	Sirdar	92		7.5	24.8
58	41	Stirling Gp	43		6.1	9.2
21	13	Strong & Fisher	17		8.8	17.1
40	18	UK Safety	18		18.4	22.4
186	114	Usher (Frank)	175½		7.1	8.9
153	96	Wensum	134		4.1	13.1
335	244	Yorklyde	335		2.8	11.8

TRANSPORT

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
118	81	Air London	106		4.7	13.1
768½	596	All Nippon Air	679½	+16½	0.3	
320	262	Assoc Br Ports	280	+1	2.8	16.8
546	414	BAA†	487½	+9½	2.7	16.5
484	348	Br Airways†	467	+4	3.4	11.8
51	12	Central Tran R	12½	-1		
123	93	Clarkson (H)	106		2.9	17.3
193	153	Clydeport	170		2.6	19.7
214	142	Dart†	214		2.8	13.6
324	76½	Eurotunnel Uts	87			
154	131	FirstBus	144	+7	4.0	
85	50	Fisher (James)	85	+5	2.2	17.8
625	405	Forth Ports	573	+3	2.3	19.1
305	166	Go-Ahead	284		2.1	10.5
273	198	Goode Durant	250	+1	3.6	12.3
139	100	IoM Steam	108		5.8	26.3
548	393	Irish Cont	478		1.0	11.9
70	52	Jacobs	65		2.0	
107	67	Lon O'Seas Frist	82	-1	0.8	16.6
485	358	Mersey Docks	424		3.2	18.2
186	130	MFCI	132	+1	6.9	
422	289	Natl Express	345		3.3	13.6
391	261	Ocean Group	384		4.7	21.5
94	68	Ocean Wilson	84	+½	6.3	3.3
637	456	P & O Dfd	473	+12	8.1	12.6
211	161	P & O 5½%	164		4.2	
89	56	Seacon	63		4.5	35.8
237	158	Serisur	227		2.1	31.1
316	196	Stagecoach	315	+22	2.3	18.2
110	79	TNT	87	-1		
713	358	Tibbet & Britn	385		6.5	11.8
241	175	TDG	178	+2	6.7	11.8
128	85	Ugland▼	88	+2	3.8	11.3
113	77	Utd Carriers	87		7.0	16.5

WATER

High 1995	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
603	443	Anglian†	586	-1	5.6	9.1
366	295	Mid Kent Hdgs†	353		4.6	9.5
641	467½	North West†	586	-1	5.6	7.6
1175	676	Northumbrian†	1169		3.2	9.1
685	475	Severn Trent	673	-3	5.6	8.0
2355	1655	South Staffs	2353		3.8	13.7
565	459	South West†	518	+4	6.8	7.2
731	517	Southern	668	+13	5.2	8.8
575	456	Thames†	568	-4	5.9	7.6
800	592½	Welsh†	743		7.1	8.8
109½	100½	Welsh Crt Pf	108½	+	9.4	
361	258½	Wessex	340	+1	5.1	7.2
677½	472	Yorkshire†	590	-3	6.0	7.7

Source: Fastal

© USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

BRITISH FUNDS

High 1995	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
106¼	100	Treas 14% 1996	100†		13.90	6.55
109½	103¼	Treas 15¼% 1996	103¼		14.77	6.30
107¼	102¾	Exch 13¼% 1996	102¾		12.90	6.32
104	103	Conv 10% 1996	103		9.68	6.13
101¼	97¼	Treas 7% 1997	101		6.91	6.14
109	107	Treas 13¼% 1997	107†		12.34	6.14
105	104	Exch 10½% 1997	104		10.01	6.13
104	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	104		8.41	6.17
117	114	Exch 15% 1997	115		13.04	6.24
107	102	Exch 9¾% 1998	106†		9.14	6.27
102	96	Treas 7¼% 1998	101		7.12	6.35
100¼	94	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100		6.75	6.73
117	113	Treas 14% 1998-01	116		11.99	6.41
124	120	Treas 15½% 1998	122		12.64	6.45
114	109	Exch 12% 1998	114		10.50	6.53
108	100	Treas 9½% 1999	108 †	+	8.79	6.54
116	111	Exch 12¼% 1999	116	-	10.53	6.62
111	105	Treas 10½% 1999	111	+	9.41	6.68
98	89	Treas 6% 1999	97	+	6.13	6.68
112	105	Conv 10¼% 1999	111	+	9.17	6.77
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
108	100	Conv 9% 2000	107	+	8.34	6.80
105	96	Treas 8% 2000	104	+	7.63	6.85
124	117	Treas 13% 2000	123 †	+	10.51	6.87
113	104	Treas 10% 2001	112	+	8.86	6.98
100	90	Treas 7% 2001	99	+	7.01	7.02
114	103	Treas 9¾% 2002	113	+	8.61	7.22
104	94	Treas 8% 2003	104	+	7.69	7.27
116	105	Treas 10% 2003	115	+	8.66	7.32
119	110	Treas 11½% 2001-04	118	+	9.68	7.14
83	70	Fund 3½% 1999-04	82 †	+	4.26	6.23
113	103	Conv 9½% 2004	112	+	8.43	7.50
96	86	Treas 6¾% 2004	95	+	7.09	7.51
108	97	Treas 8½% 2005	106	-	7.95	7.50
114	103	Conv 9½% 2005	112	+	8.42	7.58
130	119	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129	+	9.62	7.43
107	94	Treas 7½% 2006	99	+	7.51	7.53
102	92	Treas 7¾% 2006	101	+	7.65	7.57
104	93	Treas 8% 2002-06	102		7.78	7.59
124	113	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	123†	+	9.49	7.37
108	97	Treas 8½% 2007	106†	+	7.96	7.61
138	126	Treas 13½% 2004-08	136	+	9.86	7.44
112	101	Treas 9% 2008	110	+	8.12	7.66
103	94	Treas 8% 2009	102	+	7.81	7.70
LONGS (over 15 years)						
87	79	Treas 6¼% 2010	86	+	7.21	7.77
112	101	Conv 9% 2011	111	+	8.10	7.77
112	102	Treas 9% 2012	111	+	8.08	7.77
82	72	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81	+	6.75	7.49
103	93	Treas 8% 2013	102	+	7.82	7.77
101	91	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	99†	+	7.77	7.78
104	93	Treas 8% 2015	102	+	7.80	7.75
111	100	Treas 8¾% 2017	109	+	7.96	7.80
141	127	Exch 12% 2013-17	139	+	8.60	7.86
UNDATED						
45	40	War Ln 3½%	44	+	7.82	...
31	28	Treas 2½%	31	+	7.89	
50	45	Consols 4%	49		8.02	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
215	201	Treas IL 2% 1996	215	+		1.40
112	108	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	112	+	1.26	2.51
178	165	Treas IL 2½% 2001	178	+	2.76	3.28
174	161	Treas IL 2½% 2003	174	+	2.98	3.38
115	108	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	115	+	3.03	3.40
183	168	Treas IL 2% 2006	183	+	3.14	3.43
166	152	Treas IL 2½% 2009	165	+	3.22	3.46
173	157	Treas IL 2½% 2011	171	+	3.27	3.49
142	129	Treas IL 2½% 2013	141	+	3.31	3.51
152	137	Treas IL 2½% 2016	150 †	+	3.38	3.56
146	131	Treas IL 2½% 2020	144	+	3.43	3.58
122	109	Treas IL 2½% 2024	120	+	3.43	3.57
120	108	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	119	+	3.41	3.57

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[هكذا من الأصل]



■ FILM 1

A magic closet, a magic friend for a little boy, and *The Indian in the Cupboard* is on its way



■ FILM 2

... but Jim Carrey fails to find his magic comic timing in an *Ace Ventura* sequel

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC 2

The 20-year-old Daniel Harding scores a personal success standing in for Simon Rattle in Paris



■ MUSIC 2

Barbara Bonney adds her charm and artistry to the Britten song series at the Wigmore Hall

CINEMA: *The Indian in the Cupboard* may be small, says **Geoff Brown**, but he packs a punch in a barren period

Stocking filler of the week



Omri (Hal Scardino) and Little Bear (Litefoot), the tiny Native American cooked to life in the microwave, in the charming *The Indian in the Cupboard*

In Britain film distributors like to play Scrooge at Christmas. Not so in America, where ten films opened this week. Oliver Stone leads the field with the three-hour-plus *Nixon*, featuring Anthony Hopkins, a false nose and a peculiar hairline as the dark shadow among American presidents. For those weary of Stone's obsessions, Matthew Modine and Geena Davis offer swash and buckle in *Cutthroat Island*, an expensive pirate yarn from Renny Harlin.

If American moviegoers fancy comedy, Mel Brooks and Leslie Nielsen will do their best to amuse in *Dracula: Dead and Loving It*. Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, two more over-seasoned pros, are also on hand in *Grumpier Old Men*, round two in the battle of insults begun in *Grumpy Old Men*. Add to this Ian McKellen's adventurous treatment of *Richard III*, Whitney Houston in a crass female buddy movie, *Waiting to Exhale*, Zhang Yimou's sumptuous *Shanghai Triad* and a muscle show from Jean-Claude Van Damme, and you almost have something for everyone.

So what is the week's film tally in London? One. Two if you count Jim Carrey's new Ace Ventura film, which opens on Boxing Day. True, British moviegoers have fewer hours available for Christmas shopping than their American counterparts, who luxuriate in stores that scarcely close. But by releasing so little new product, distributors are doing their best to ensure that the monster in the living room corner increases its grip on the punter. Stay at home with the booze and mincepies and you can see 800 movies of varying ages, if you believe the cover of the Christmas *Radio Times*. Venture forth among your fellow humans to the place where movies should live and breathe — a public cinema — and you are faced with almost no choice at all.

The Indian in the Cupboard
Odeon West End
PG, 96 mins
Restrained, imaginative family film

Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls
Warner West End
PG, 93 mins
Jim Carrey lets rip in Africa

Luckily, the week's new film, **The Indian in the Cupboard**, is a good one. After watching this, anyone who gets a wooden cupboard for Christmas will be on their toes. Omri, the boy hero, receives one from his brother, who found it among discarded objects tucked away in the house. No ordinary cupboard, it functions like a microwave oven. You place a 3in plastic figure of an American Indian inside; you close the door. You wait. You open, and out pops not a steaming chicken casserole but the same Native American, still 3in tall, but now living and breathing.

Little Bear is his name, Iroquois his nation; he is frightened and perplexed. When he last checked, it was 1761. Now he is trapped in a bizarre environment with carpeting, TV Westerns, and a pet rat who scuttles round the house inside a globe. To make Little Bear feel more at home, you dig out a plastic tepee from a playbox. He feels the material: "Terrible!" he says.

Readers of Lynne Reid Banks's children's stories have known about Omri and the magic cupboard since 1981, when the first collection was published. In time, Hollywood tumbled to their charm; and they could not have been placed in better hands than Spielberg's associates Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall, and the scriptwriter Melissa Mathison.

All were involved in *E.T.*, and this gentle film, directed by the former Muppeteer Frank Oz, conjures up the *E.T.* magic as a friendship builds between Omri and his visitor from another age. Omri's character proves crucial. When the live Indian first appears, his eyes widen with awe and delight. But Hal Scardino, a remarkable child actor, never lets Omri boil over with glee: he treats the little visitor seriously, and his earnest, dreamy-eyed demeanour puts him in a different league from most street-smart Hollywood kids.

The film as a whole stands apart. In a show-off age, it delights in being reticent: the special effects of Industrial Light & Magic exist solely for the story's benefit. Little Bear himself, played by Cherokee rap artist Litefoot, is scarcely more boisterous than Omri; for any loud acting, you must turn to David Keith as the bumptious, drunken cowboy Boone, another plastic figure cooked into life by the microwave cupboard, or Steve Coogan as Tommy Atkins, a cheerful British soldier with a vital medical kit.

Since a toy Indian is involved, and this is the age of PC thinking, there is much talk of Native American lore. But Mathison's script pays its PC dues subtly, just as it lightly sketches the rough and tumble of the urban world beyond Omri's bedroom. On the streets, a kid easily steals Omri's money. Inside the house, through his adventures with the toys, he learns the skills and gains the wisdom necessary for survival.

Oz has not always been the most controlled of directors: in his last comedy, *Housesitter*, he dragged his feet terribly. But the pace and tone of *The Indian in the Cupboard* are beautifully controlled. If you look for loud, flamboyant family fun, the film will certainly disappoint. Aim for quieter pleasures, and you will get them in spades.

No one should expect delicacy and good taste from **Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls**. Bat droppings, skunk piss, a mouthful of phlegm: these are some of the tasty ingredients in this relentless sequel to Jim Carrey's breakthrough film of 1994, *Ace Ventura, Pet Detective*.

In earlier Carrey vehicles, the script usually allowed you to look elsewhere if the star's antics started to pall. There were sidekicks, sparring partners or bountiful special effects. Here the man stands very much centre stage, and if you don't like his mugging there is nowhere else to go, except through the exit.

Even Carrey's fans may wince from the glare of their idol's spotlight. He contorts his face as gleefully as before as Florida's antic animal sleuth, now on a mission in Africa; but after experiencing the digitally enhanced distortions of *The Mask*, his hyperactive mouth and eyes begin to appear almost sedate.

The intense focus on the star attraction also reveals the cruelty and unattractive narcissism built into Carrey's personality. As he swaggers through the jungle, being nice neither to humans nor animals, the anarchic brio that appeals to the young soon wears thin. You want to throttle this preening monkey, or at least kick him in the pants — especially the yellow-and-green striped pair worn in the film's poster.

Matters begin amiably enough with Ace attempting a mountain rescue of a raccoon: a parody of Sylvester Stallone in *Cliffhanger*. When his mission fails, depression sends him to a spiritual retreat in the Himalayas.

From thence the film travels to Africa (South Carolina, actually), where the Great White Bat, a sacred creature of the Wachati tribe, has been stolen just when its services are required at the wedding of the chief's daughter. Here the humour, or lack of it, really starts to bite: you know a film is in dire straits when an effusion of spit (the tribe's greeting ritual) becomes a comic highlight.

Where *The Indian in the Cupboard* falls over backwards to be respectful to Native Americans, *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls* shows no compunction about treating Africa's tribal races as laughable fuzzy-wuzzies. Ian McNeice and Simon Callow's stereotyped British colonials generate slightly better jokes, although Steve Oedekerk, the writer and director, can never dislodge the mean-spirited atmosphere hanging in the air.

Just occasionally, the film's humour and bad taste fuse in such a way that you become transfixed by the grotesque spectacle, half amused and half appalled. The best example involves Carrey, a fake rhinoceros, and a crowd of gullible tourists. But to nail down the detail might rob potential audiences of their one solid chance of laughter.

Oscar's young contenders

A contest for budding British film-makers is attracting quality work



You Know My Story, written by Jennie Roberts, has already won acclaim in America

When the third Lloyds Bank Channel 4 Film Challenge reached its closing date for entries, last Friday, its organisers were astonished to find that more than 2,500 had flooded in — 25 per cent up on last time, and 50 per cent more than in the first year. What's more, one of these 2,500 hopeful film-makers (all aged between 11 and 25) could actually win an Oscar.

Seriously. Next month one of last year's winners of this trawl for young screenwriters — *You Know My Story*, by Jennie Roberts — may well win the New York Festival award in the young film-maker category. It is on a shortlist of four from an international entry of nearly 3,000. Lloyds intends to go one better next time, and aim for the 1997 Oscars.

The Roberts film is a remarkable piece of work: a ghost story about child abuse, written by a 14-year-old who has no first-hand experience of either main elements in her story. The Lloyds competition itself is also a phenomenon. When its eight second-year winners had their ten-minute films televised in July, they drew a million viewers each. The films, documentaries and dramas ranged widely in subject: murder and brutality, ethnic community development, black comedy, the psychology of pop fans, pop-music mania ...

Despite good viewing figures, only in September did Channel 4 decide to keep the competition for another year. That it has survived is a tribute to the sponsor's determination. At one stage, as Channel 4 shuffled the project between two commissioning editors, David Goldesgeyme, Lloyd's sponsorship manager, considered shifting the competition to cinemas, and almost convinced the Odeon chain to take it on. One ten-minute short could easily be tacked on to the end of a feature, he argued, and young writers and directors would be directly associated with the revival of British cinema. But because feature films are now run end to end, even a short programme addition to every screening through the day could make the sessions run into the early hours.

There was also a sponsorship problem. The trailers we see in cinemas around Britain are sponsored by TSB, whose contract prevents any other financial house having a major cinema sponsorship. Madeleine French, series producer for the production company, Compulsive Viewing, said: "Lloyds were terrific. They could have walked away from it, and no one would have thought the worse of them — but they didn't."

Now both television and cinema are back in the frame. After representations from the British film industry's guardian angels, Sir David Puttnam and Lord Attenborough, it was Channel 4's director of programmes, John Willis, who stood up for the Challenge and appointed a single commissioning editor, Lucinda Whiteley, to drive it.

"Decisions of this kind will always be made year by year; that's normal," Whiteley says. "But the Challenge has become an important part of the Channel 4 output. It's the only completely open competition in which every submitted script is guaranteed to get a reading."

The Odeon chain is still talking, and so now is Virgin, the new owner of the MGM chain. The suggestion is that one Lloyds short be shown each evening. Even the sponsorship problem seems to have disappeared with the merger of TSB with Lloyds. The films could get a simultaneous cinema season to complement their exposure on Channel 4.

The great strength of the Challenge is that it uncovers talent that could not be found in any other way. Susan Nickson was a 14-year-old Runcorn schoolgirl when she won in 1993 with a piece called *Buddha's Legs*. She was invited to write a half-hour piece for Channel 4 and turned in *Life's a Bitch*, a hot favourite for a Bafta award in March. Now 17, she has already made the vital contacts for a career in film or television.

There are, says Kate Iles of Compulsive Viewing, clear trends in this year's entries. The influence of *Four Weddings* and *Shallow Grave* is palpable. "There seems to be a preoccupation with the death of parents, too" she said. "But a lot of the scripts are based on personal experience, and that makes them very fresh."

Chris Main, the author of *Boom, Boom*, one of this year's successes, would still be working in a Tyneside shoe factory if he hadn't gone in for the Challenge. Iles says: "He saved his money up so he could take a year off to write. What he's gained from this is knowledge, experience and confidence."

The scripts are worked on in degrees of thoroughness between their raw state and filming. Two St Andrews girls were told that there was not enough money in the budget for the five main characters in their script, and they offered to run a cake sale at their school to pay for the extra actor.

Directors for the pieces have to be under 30 and to have made a film already. French and Iles select them from schools and the industry. "That has been enormously valuable to me," says Whiteley. "I have used three directors myself on other projects as a result of the Challenge — and one of them won me an Emmy this year."

SIMON TAIT

CONCERTS: Triumph against the odds in Paris; great Britten in London

Late substitute carries baton

CBSO/Harding
Châtelet, Paris



Harding: nerveless in place of absent Rattle

Daniel Harding wrought a miracle in Paris on Monday night. The 20-year-old Englishman, who is spending a year as Claudio Abbado's assistant at the Berlin Philharmonic, replaced Simon Rattle for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's concert at the Châtelet and earned a noisy ovation. But it was a close-run thing.

The problems facing conductor and orchestra were almost unsurmountable. To start with, the programme featured the Schoenberg Piano Concerto and Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, which are not standard works in an experienced conductor's repertory, never mind one whose career ran to just two full concerts with a full-size orchestra.

Peter Seiffert, scheduled to sing the tenor role in the Mahler, had already withdrawn before Rattle pulled out for family reasons. There was also the uncertainty about whether the orchestra would actually reach strike-torn Paris. "It was tempting to cancel", said Ed Smith, the general manager of the CBSO. "How could we find someone to do that programme in a city we didn't know we would reach?"

In the end Harding carried the night so memorably that Thomas Hampson, the American baritone in *Das Lied*, called his achievement "nothing short of incredible". A full house that included Henri Louis de la Grange, the noted Mahler scholar, gave its acclaim and it was an exhausted young man who walked off into the Paris night.

The Châtelet management was initially reluctant to accept an unproven Englishman as Rattle's locum. Rattle, however, knew his man. Harding served as his assistant in Birmingham two seasons ago when Rattle publicly endorsed him in Symphony Hall before a performance of Bartok's *Miraculous Mandarin* suite. Even so, Harding had to fib when his manager (and Rattle's), Martin Campbell-White, phoned him in Berlin last Friday. He had never conducted the Schoenberg, "but I lied because I wanted the gig". As for *Das Lied*, a musical peak in anybody's atlas, he had done it once in Italy, "with a bunch of farmers".

Harding was given a comradely hand by Emanuel Ax, the soloist in the Schoenberg, and Hampson played a real "captain's innings". Was it intimidating? Only up to a point. "I know everybody in the orchestra so I wasn't scared," Harding said. "*Das Lied* is a piece I have known for as long as I can remember and I couldn't say 'no' to an opportunity of getting to know it better."

So well did he seize his chance that the Orchestre de Paris, seeking a replacement for Carlo Maria Giulini next month, asked if he would like to take over. He can't, but in April he conducts the Sharoun Ensemble, the Berlin Philharmonic's chamber group, at the Salzburg Easter Festival. On his 21st birthday he will conduct the Rotterdam Philharmonic at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, and beyond lies a Luc Bondy production of *The Turn of the Screw* in Aix-en-Provence.

Out of potential disaster, then, came triumph. The CBSO repeated the Mahler in Symphony Hall on Tuesday and record it next week with Hampson and Seiffert. This week alone they will play seven concerts, underlining once again the versatility and professionalism of British musicians. At the end of a year when our orchestras have received bad news with every post it is worth honouring what we often take for granted.

MICHAEL HENDERSON

Revelling in the music of the words

Barbara Bonney
Wigmore Hall

W.H. AUDEN was at the Wigmore Hall on December 15, 1936, to hear the first performance of Britten's setting of his poem, *Underneath an abject willow*. Fondly dedicated to Britten, it told him, in no uncertain terms, that "All that lives may love; why longer Bow to loss With arms across? Strike and you shall conquer."

Britten never did — or at least not in the way Auden may have wanted. Gradually, they grew apart.

The willow song did not make it into Barbara Bonney's recital in the Wigmore Hall's *Britten Song Series*: we must wait until January 24 to hear it. And the early, rapturous Auden settings *On This Island* give little indication of the tensions between the two of them. Nobody, for instance, would ever suspect that, as Donald Mitchell has suggested, Britten found Auden's verbal wit and huge vocabulary "intolerably burdensome".

In the voice of Bonney and under the fluent fingers of Julius Drake, the perfect empathy of words and music, the answering of inflection to inflection, form to form, reminded us only that this encounter with Auden's verse was to form the well-spring which would nourish so much in Britten's responses to English poetry.

Bonney's re-creation of the ecstatic, transitory movement of the animal kingdom in *Fish in the unruffled lakes*, her brilliant, golden trumpeting forth of the Handelian *Let the Florid Music Praise!*, her sharp charm in the cabaret-style *As it is, Plenty* — all added to the stock of revelation in this excellent series.

Gabriel Woolf, too, provided real illumination in his pre-performance collage and reading of Auden's prose and poetry, the last in the Wigmore's series of talks on writers who influenced Britten. And that was that for the evening. As ever, the Britten was spread a little thin (the series, after all, must run and run). Bonney built the rest of her recital round Haydn and Mendelssohn (certainly not known as wordsmiths of the first order), and ended it with eight songs from Hugo Wolf's *Italienisches Liederbuch*.

Here, once more, the word came into its own. Bonney made sure that each line of *Wer rief dich denn?* ("Who Called You Then?") took on a different tone of indignation; enjoyed the heart-stopping pauses in the songs of yearning; and, again with admirable understatement, chattered her way through Wolf's own little catalogue song, *Ich hab'in Penna*.

HILARY FINCH



■ CHOICE 1

Tie me pumpkin down, sport: Rolf Harris opens in *Cinderella*

VENUE: Tonight at the Birmingham Hippodrome



■ CHOICE 2

Peter Donohoe joins the CBSO for a dose of epic Tchaikovsky

VENUE: Symphony Hall, Birmingham, today

THE TIMES ARTS



■ CHOICE 3

The Marx Brothers' *Animal Crackers* is recreated as a stage show

VENUE: Tonight, Royal Exchange, Manchester



■ VISUAL ART

Tips for would-be artist's models, from one who has revealed all in the cause of culture

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

MUSICAL FESTIVITIES: The Wigmore surrenders to a bit of the ho-ho repertoire tonight, when the Guildhall String Ensemble offers a programme of Christmas Classics, from Corelli to Grieg. Lynda Russell, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Ian Partridge and Simon Birchall join The Sixteen choir and orchestra at St John's for Handel's mighty Messiah, as part of the Magenta Christmas Festival. There will be a programme of traditional carols for The Sixteen's first-ever family concert tomorrow
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm.
St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm, Fri, 2.30pm

ASHTON DELIGHTS: Curtain up for the Royal Ballet's *Tales of Beatrix Potter* — delightful for adults and enthralling for younger fans. Tonight's performance opens with Ashton's Les Patineurs, set to Meyerbeer's music and evoking the rhythms of ice skaters. Tales is shown with the Royal Ballet School's *Peter and the Wolf* tomorrow
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Tonight, 7pm, Fri, 12pm ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Gary Wilmot, Rolf Harris, Judy Cornwell and Robin Cousins team up for a rip-roaring **Cinderella**. The sets should be quite spectacular, complete with a frozen lake and a coach pulled by white shetland ponies.
Hippodrome, Hurst Street (0121-622 7486). Opens tonight, 7.15pm. Contact box office for schedule ⓢ

Also in Birmingham, pianist Peter Donohoe joins Simon Rattle and the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** today for a double-bill feast of Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No 1 and the complete second act of *The Nutcracker*. Seasonal music and carolling take over tomorrow and Saturday
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm, Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 2.30 and 7pm. ⓢ

CARDIFF: Welsh National Opera continues its 50th anniversary celebrations with a timely small scale tour of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*. Performed in English, and suitable for children of all ages, as long as they are over eight. Designs are by the ever-inventive Lez Brotherston.
Star Centre, Splott Road ⓢ (01222 484647). Tonight, 7.30pm. Next in **Street**, Strode (01458 442846), Sat.

MANCHESTER: Ben Keaton, Joseph Alessi and Toby Sedgwick play the Marx Brothers in **Animal Crackers**, the stage show of the old movie. Gregory Hersov and Emil Wolk co-direct the mayhem.
Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (0161-833 9833). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm ⓢ

WOKING: Another star-spangled panto opens today: this **Dick Whittington** boasts Lesley Joseph, Rosemarie Ford, Kriss Akabusi and Robert Duncan.
New Victoria, Peacocks Arts Centre (0483 761144). Tonight, 7.30pm. Contact box office for schedule ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster (0171-636 1555) . . **Hayward:** Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (071-928 3144) . . **National Gallery:** Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) . . **National Portrait Gallery:** Richard and Maria Cosway (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy:** Africa: Art of a Continent (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate:** Colin Self: The Art of War 1939-45 (0171-887 8000) . . **V & A:** Jain Art from India (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

□ **ACCORDING TO HOYLE:** The tensions of today threaten a group of friends who have played poker together for 18 years. New play commissioned from William Gaminara
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. ⓢ

◩ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL:** Revival of Ian Judge's popular but over-sweet production. Clive Francis plays Scrooge
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, most mats sold out. Until Jan 13 ⓢ

◩ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE:** Sam Mendes' radiant production: Zoe Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter, Ben Walden is Tom
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, plus Dec 28 and Jan 4, 3pm.

□ **HOBSON'S CHOICE:** Frank Thornton in the title role of Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. Nichola McAuliffe and Graham Turner excellent as daughter and son-in-law
Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sat, 3pm ⓢ

◩ **JOLSON:** The highs and lows of the singer with with a monster ego. Brian Conley belts out the songs; Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler.
Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ⓢ

◩ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

□ **THE MASTER BUILDER:** Peter Hall's sexually understated production. Alan Bates the smoldering hero; fine performances by Gemma Jones and Victoria Hamilton
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ⓢ

□ **RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET:** A marvellously mad mix of *The Tempest* with *Great Balls of Fire* and other cosmic hits of the 1950s and 1960s
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 5pm and 8.30pm. Also Dec 27, 2.30pm

□ **SOUTH PACIFIC:** Patti Boulaye plays Bloody Mary in Phil Willmott's production of the Rodgers & Hammerstein tropical evergreen
Drill Hall, Chenies Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270). Tue-Sat, Jan 7, 14: 7.30pm

□ **WILD OATS:** Anton Lesser as Rover, the touring actor whose talk is a patchwork of the roles he has played. Highly enjoyable revival of John O'Keefe's 1791 farce. (No perf Dec 23)
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 22523). Tonight-Dec 28, 7.30pm; mats Tue, Thurs, 2.15pm ⓢ

□ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS:** Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Still delightful
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, daily in week of Dec 26, 2.30pm. ⓢ

LONG RUNNERS

◩ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) ◩ **Communicating Doors**: Gielgud (0171-494 5530) . □ **Dead Guilty**: Apollo (0171-494 5070) . □ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Albery (0171-369 1730) . ◩ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) ◩ **Indian Ink**: Aldwych (0171-416 6003) . ◩ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . □ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre. **Availability at time of going to press; check box office.**

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals. Director, Chris Noonan.
Barbican ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

LA BELLE ET LA BETE (PG): Revival of Cocteau's enchanting version of *Beauty and the Beast*, with Jean Marais and Josette Day
Everyman ⓢ (0171-435 1525) **NFT** (0171-928 3232) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

THE SHOOTER (18): US marshal (Dolph Lundgren) comes to Prague to prevent an assassination. Video fodder, directed by Ted Kotcheff
MGM Trocadero ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **THE SWAN PRINCESS** (U): Wizard threatens wedding of Prince Derek and Princess Odette. Bland animated fairy tale. Director, Richard Rich
MGM Trocadero ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THREE WISHES** (PG): Hobo spreads wisdom in the American suburbs. Dawdling romantic fantasy directed by Martha Coolidge, with Patrick Swayze and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio
MGM Trocadero ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE TIE THAT BINDS** (18): Nasty thriller about child adoption, with Keith Carradine and Daryl Hannah.
MGM Trocadero ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Warner** ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

THE BROTHERS McMULLEN (15): Irish-Americans agonise over love, commitment and beer. Feature debut by writer-director Edward Burns.
Gate ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520)

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (15): Actors struggle to mount *Hamlet*. Overmanic comedy from Kenneth Branagh, with Michael Maloney, Joan Collins
MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12): Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour; with Sean Bean. Martin Campbell directs
Barbican ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **MURDER IN THE FIRST** (15): Flashy but absorbing Alcatraz drama, with Kevin Bacon, Christian Slater and Gary Oldman. Director, Marc Rocco
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE SANTA CLAUSE** (U): Divorced dad becomes the new Santa. Broad family comedy with a human face, featuring Tim Allen
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **TO DIE FOR** (15): Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Warner** ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

UNSTRUNG HEROES (PG): Diane Keaton directs this eccentric heart-warmer about a boy's charmed life with crazy relatives. With Nathan Witt, Andie MacDowell, John Turturro.
MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** ⓢ (0171-435 3366)

Lois Rathbone recalls the chills, cramps and consequences of baring all in the name of art

The naked and the damned



Leighton House Museum has been holding auditions for a centenary exhibition. Two scantily-clad actresses have been sought to impersonate Dorothy Dene, muse to Frederic Leighton. Having once done a similar thing myself, let me offer the women a few tips.

Like Dorothy Dene, the successful applicants, Fo Cullen and Kate Hargreaves, are of medium height and unfashionably buxom, with pre-Raphaelite hair. Physical similarities aside, they are required to keep still and, as they will find out, that can be incredibly tiring.

As a former model at the Royal College of Art, I once posed publicly as Manet's *Olympia*. The occasion was a charity ball in the Royal College's studios in Kensington, four years ago. As part of the evening's entertainment, I was being sculpted by the young artist Ben Panting.

Mine was not a particularly convincing imitation of Manet's demi-mondaine — a slip of a girl. But the presence of a naked body in the room seemed to have a liberating effect on the revellers. One young woman arrived as a caryatid, dressed only in a sheet and white body paint. After a glance in the direction of the chaise-longue, she dispensed with the sheet altogether. Mayhem ensued. A young man started undoing his bow tie in emulation; a barman pouring a drink missed the glass. Pinned to my couch, I was being chatted up by a Greek cabaret singer called Otis, who became increasingly persistent in his attentions.

The Leighton House girls are being asked to impersonate the model for Lord Leighton in his study of a sleeping woman, *Flaming June*, as part of the museum's centenary celebrations to commemorate the artist's death in February. The exhibition organisers have looked for actresses rather than professional models. They may be remembering Tilda Swinton's recent performance at the Serpentine Gallery, where she "slept" in a glass coffin, although in this case the actresses have some lines to speak. But members of the acting profession tend to be a fidgety bunch, incapable of sitting still, so the organisers might have been better advised to make their selection from the art schools.

Exhibitionist by nature, professional models lack the talent for more active performing roles and, for this reason, take the business of keeping still seriously. Their job demands the utmost in human endurance. Perched high on the studio's wobbling pillar, one side of the body is singed by an antique heater, the other exposed to a draughty window in February. All the while, a teacher throws encouraging comments at the students: "That's it, but make it bigger. Much bigger." Which part of your body does he mean?

Quentin Crisp, a shy young man with his clothes on, brought a sense of theatricality to life classes in the 1940s. He would roll on the paint-daubed floors, twist himself into impossible contortions, balance *en arabesque* on top of his perch. Students would unhook him from the picture rails and beg him to stand as though he were simply waiting for a bus. "What kind of an injunction was that?" he reasoned, "when, at a bus stop, I looked as though I were on the dais of some life room."

Similiar eccentrics could be found at the Royal College. One model, a farmer by day, was middle-aged but capable of holding a difficult position for hours. He was also quite without inhibitions, with one exception. He insisted on wearing his farmer's hat at all times. Without it he felt quite naked.

My evening's labours as *Olympia*, as anyone who has sat for a portrait will know, rapidly became an exercise in pain control. The simplest pose can become agonising within minutes. To lie still for seven hours, I was supplied with restorative glasses of champagne at half-hourly intervals.

The organisers of the Leighton Exhibition will need to be equally thoughtful to their muses. And please, no caryatids.

Sugar without the plums

DANCE

The Nutcracker
Festival Hall

Ben Stevenson's production of *The Nutcracker* for English National Ballet is only four years old, but already it seems of pensionable age. Its tired effects cannot be blamed entirely on the Festival Hall's shallow, dance-hostile stage. When dancers over-act as if they were in a football stadium, then it is the company which is at fault.

The jokes which were once a stronger feature of Stevenson's staging than his choreography now fall as flat as the exaggeratedly tottering, precarious old folks of the Stahlbaum's Christmas party. The naughty, boisterous antics of the children need more finesse to raise a laugh.

An exception, though, was Yat Sen Chang's terminally riotous Fritz: he convinced by his bouncing dancing and youthfulness. So did Paul Lewis's Drosselmeyer, saturninely elegant and mysterious.

The most horrifying performance, however, came from Alice Crawford as Clara, whose sugary, prettified manner made your teeth hurt. Not an arabesque, not a tiny incident passed without embarrassingly ecstatic toothy smiles, wide-eyed astonished delight, girlish transports of wonder. She must have a strong technique to allow for such minute detail in her dancing; if only she would accept that less is often more.

Yet the company as a whole is looking good — as it has been in the two years of Derek Deane's directorship. Ensembles are brightly polished in their unison and attack. Roman Rykin as the Nutcracker Prince has the super-arched feet and turn-out of his Russian training, although some strain ultimately tended to show. In this production he gets to partner two ballerinas: Josephine Jewkes's Snow Queen, restrained, grave-faced, but very stylish; and Cecilia Kerche's Sugar Plum Fairy.

Kerche, a guest from Brazil, bears a passing resemblance to Princess Grace in her middle years and has a facility which allows her to do anything. You want an immobile balance in attitude with head turned back over one shoulder? Or a pirouette ending perfectly on one knee? Or a diagonal of the solidly centred fouettes? Then Kerche is your dancer: adept, experienced but, like Rykin, somewhat lacking in glamour.

NADINE MEISNER

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DANCE

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THEATRES

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■ BUILDING

The temporary home of the Royal Opera could be one of London's prime landmarks



■ OPERA

Could Opera North's maestro, Paul Daniel, be considering moving to the Coliseum?

THE TIMES ARTS



■ THEATRE 1

Mixed feelings are evoked by Jonathan Harvey's mockery of the lonely in his hit play

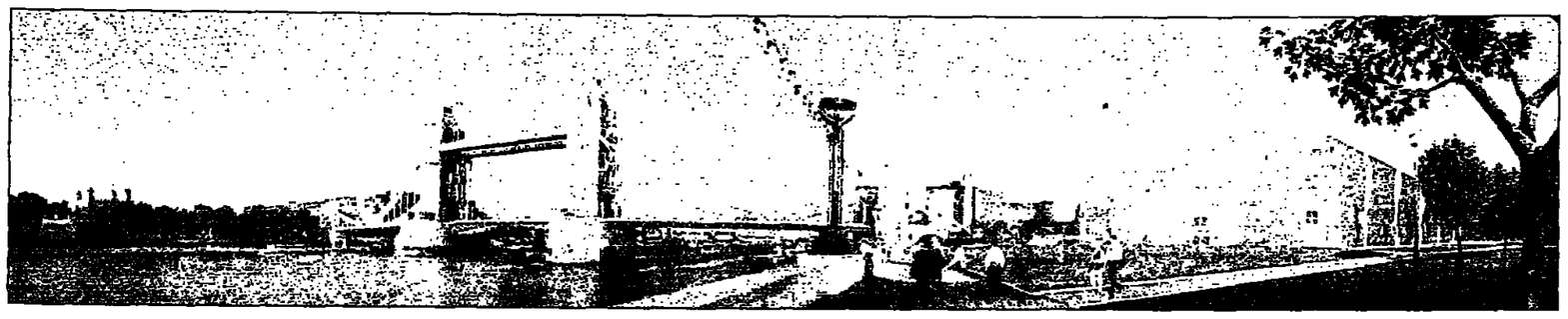


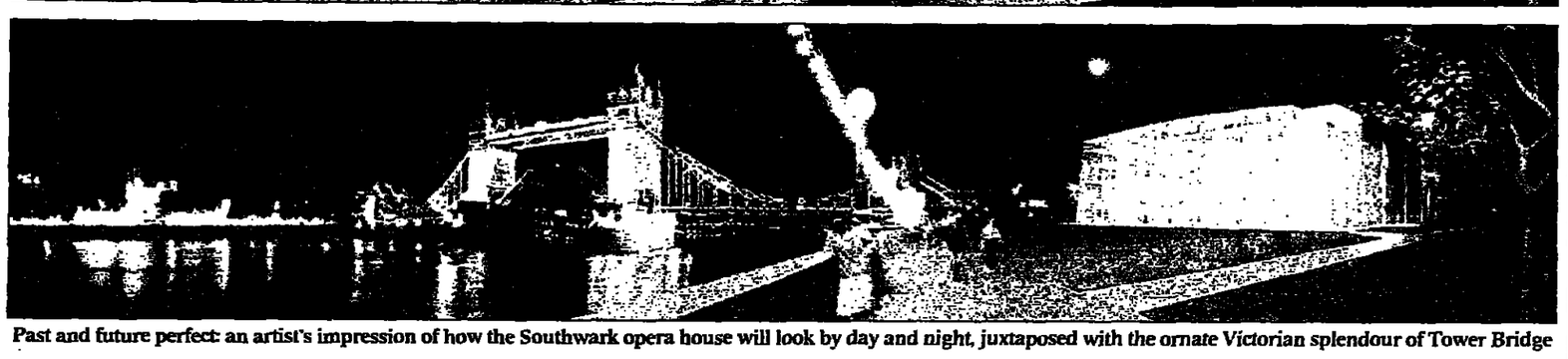
■ THEATRE 2

Spoof melodrama proves diverting as *The Streets of Dublin* comes to the streets of Brixton

Faster, cheaper, stronger – plans for the Royal Opera House's temporary home at Tower Bridge impress **Marcus Binney**

Shimmering steel takes the strains





Past and future perfect: an artist's impression of how the Southwark opera house will look by day and night, juxtaposed with the ornate Victorian splendour of Tower Bridge

The temporary home for the Royal Opera House, approved by planners on Monday night, looks set to break records for speed of construction and value for money. The architect, Ian Ritchie, says the 2,350-seat theatre will be built in 16 months at a cost of £14 million, or just £6,000 per seat.

Economy comes from the simple box form and steel-frame construction. Inside will be the largest stage in London, designed to take productions from La Scala and the Met in New York, and with backstage facilities allowing the ROH to have five productions in the repertoire at once, as at Covent Garden. There is a fully motorised fly tower and space for ballet and chorus rehearsals.

"No one has built a steel opera house before. It will be a landmark for opera everywhere," says Derek Sugden, the project's acoustic adviser and a veteran of Aldeburgh and Glyndebourne. "My only concern is that the acoustics might be better than Covent Garden," he adds, half-jokingly.

What began as a demountable theatre now looks set to become a permanent fixture on the south bank of the Thames by Tower Bridge. A major opera house must be 100 per cent soundproof, solid enough to keep out the sound of low-flying helicopters as well as jumbo jets. Ritchie hopes to achieve this at reasonable cost by adapting the techniques of civil engineering. The outer walls will be built of wire baskets of loose stone, which engineers call gabions and use on riverbanks. But the mesh will be in woven stainless steel, creating an effect like chain mail. "Lit tangentially at night, the whole exterior will shimmer," says Ritchie.

Window frames will be in flame-sprayed zinc and bronze, while the fly tower will be wrapped in a silver-grey membrane.

After dark, the big excitement will be the sight of Tower Bridge ablaze with floodlights. Indeed, the views from the new opera house could hardly be bettered. There is nothing to impede the view of the river and the Tower of London: no buildings, no cars, just a slope of lawn down to the embankment walk. Ritchie has taken full advantage, placing all the foyers at the front, with floor-to-ceiling glass and a roof terrace.

The inner acoustic box of the auditorium is designed like a cofferdam, consisting of two skins of folding steel plates with sand poured into the gap between to block out sound.

The interior will have steel walls and ceiling, and unpolished bronze balcony fronts. "It will glisten like silver but not reflect the stage lights," says Ritchie. Seating upholstery will be in five shades of blue, with carpeting restricted to the aisles. "It is all reflective materials to achieve the best acoustics," says Sugden.

In plan, the auditorium is neither a horseshoe nor a fan but gently curved, providing a view of the whole depth of the stage for all — essential for ballet.

The balconies are not cantilevered from the wall in the traditional way, but suspended from the ceiling trusses by tension rods, placed so they will never impede views. As a result, the balconies stand free of the rear wall, allowing the back of the theatre to be as dramatically uplit as the front curtain.

Now that Southwark Council has voted planning permission, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, has 21 days to review the proposal. Any delay could scupper the project, since the Ritchie opera house must be ready for Covent Garden's planned closure in September 1997.

The site owners, property group St Martin's and Southwark Council, have vested the land in a trust. They believe the new theatre will help regeneration of the area and want it to remain there after the Royal Opera and Ballet return to Covent Garden in the year 2000. The one big problem is that the developer, Greater London Enterprise, has yet to line up the second tenant vital to the finance. Yet Jeremy Isaacs, director of Covent Garden, remains confident. "There are all sorts of people keen to come in after us, including an American corporation and ENO if they decide to refurbish the Coliseum," he says.

The "American corporation" is widely believed to be Disney, which needs a large London theatre for its blockbuster stage musicals.

How will audiences get to the new opera house? Southwark will not allow car parking on the site but, says Ritchie, there will be a drop-off point for coaches and queueing for 30 taxis. "The Northern Line at London Bridge and Tower Hill Underground are both only six minutes' walk away," he says optimistically.

Maestro at the crossroads

The conductor Paul Daniel is happy to stay with Opera North – for the moment, he tells **Richard Morrison**

Am I talking to the future music director of English National Opera? At the other end of the line there is a pause — not exactly of Wagnerian proportions, but certainly more than Webernesque. "Well, what have you heard?" says the conductor Paul Daniel, coyly.

What I have heard is that Daniel — very tall, very thin, very talented — has certainly been asked to succeed the ill-fated Sian Edwards at the Coliseum. No surprises there; at 37, he has five years experience at the helm of Opera North behind him, as well as regular guest conducting at distinguished opera houses in Munich and Brussels. And he is now "talking" to the New York Met. Few doubt that he would be ideal at ENO. But I have also heard that he turned the offer down.

Another pause down the line from Leeds, where Daniel is resting between rehearsals for tomorrow's big new production of Verdi's *Luisa Miller*. "I would certainly take the offer extremely seriously if it were offered. I was lucky enough to work at the Coliseum at the beginning of my career. Watching David Pountney at work, and the way that Mark Elder created a superb music staff, was invaluable.

"But being tipped for a job puts you in a difficult position. The first assumption is that you are willing to abandon your present task. Whenever you move from one thing to another, there is always a sense of guilt: a feeling that what you were doing previously was merely a stepping stone to bigger things. Opera North does not deserve to be used in that way. It has so much talent. And I'm very happy with what I am doing here at the moment."

So that's a "no", is it? Another pause. "I stress the words 'at the moment'," Daniel says mysteriously. But does he think that ENO can recapture the high old times it enjoyed in the 1980s? "I think it is dangerous for people in opera to harp on about the past. We are all part of a museum culture as it is. The point about ENO is that it could have a great future."

But Daniel is clearly not going to reveal in this conversation whether he will be part of it. What, though, of Opera North? If its productions are as exciting as its marketing, the punters of Leeds should fasten their safety belts. Not every opera company has its advertisement banned by *The Sunday Times*, on the grounds that its punchline — "They came. Did you?", under a picture of a couple in a passionate clinch — did not instantly evoke the pleasures of an evening at the Grand Theatre in Leeds.

"Wonderful," says Daniel. "If opera is not about sex and death, what is it about? When you consider that the newspapers were quite happy to run the Squidgy tape in full, this sudden concern about taste is rather odd, don't you think?

"The problem for opera companies is this: when I look in a magazine like *The Face* I don't understand it any more. Pushing 40, I am on the wrong side of a generation gap, and so is our audience. That's why we must reach out to the young. But when we do, we sometimes run into trouble."

There is plenty of sex and death in *Luisa Miller* — and (incidentally) some cracking good music, too. Yet Tim Albery's staging for Opera North (he did a fine *Don Carlos* with Daniel too) will be the opera's first professional British production outside London. "The work is not just blood-and-thunder politics, and it's not just domestic tragedy," Daniel says. "It is a subtle mixture of both. It was a blueprint for Verdi's "big three", and it's as much an ensemble piece as *Falstaff*."

Daniel's record for reviving the unfamilar and premiering the new is unrivalled in British opera. He believes that *Luisa Miller* is exactly the sort of work that Opera North should be tackling. "You have to be careful about doing rare works, that's true. Audiences are very choosy now. Gone are the great days of the Eighties, when people would book £150 worth of subscription tickets in one go. But we are determined not to go down the road that leads to popular repertoire and nothing else.

"And the great thing about Opera North is that it is a young ensemble. Most people in the company are tackling this repertory for the first time. We are coming to it as virgins. So is most of our audience. There is an intense sense of adventure." Just like the advert said, then.



"Being tipped for a job is difficult," Paul Daniel says. "The assumption is you are willing to abandon your present task"

● *Luisa Miller opens tomorrow at the Grand Theatre, Leeds (0113-246 5906)*

RADIO

Merry festive run-up

YOU can almost feel the schedulers straining at the leash. The pre-Christmas week offers the opportunity to show a little self-discipline by eschewing anything to do with seasonal programming, the better to justify next week's excess of yule.

But the best of intentions can be breached by the European Broadcasting Union. Last year the EBU co-ordinated *Christmas Around Europe*, a live hook-up which went on for 14 hours. This year that ambitious jaunt has been both extended and contracted. **Christmas Around the World** went out on Radio 3 on Sunday, adding Russia and America to the geographical reach. But whereas it took 14 hours to get around Europe, the world occupied only eight.

I could not hear all of it, but what I did hear — including Greek folk music, Byzantine religious songs, chants from the Russian Orthodox Church and, in the final evening session, spirituals sung by glee clubs in Atlanta — involved a spectacular variety of music sufficient to put to shame narrow British celebrations.

There was, however, some classically English fare on offer in the break between the two parts of *Christmas Around the World*. **Sunday Play** (Radio 3) had Freddie Jones as Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Maddeningly, the theatrical academics who seek to dictate what is "acceptable" Shakespeare and what is not tend to regard *Merry Wives* as a slight work. In fact it is a vastly entertaining parable of the middle classes.

Jones, playing Falstaff for the first time in a long career, had the nuances exactly right and the piece was assisted, rather than interrupted, by Stephen Warbeck's music, written in the style of the time.

Elsewhere this week, a two-parter called **Two Tales of a City** (Radio 5 Live) was the pick of the documentary output: watch out for part two this Sunday. The theme is sectarianism in Glasgow and the lessons it may offer for Northern Ireland.

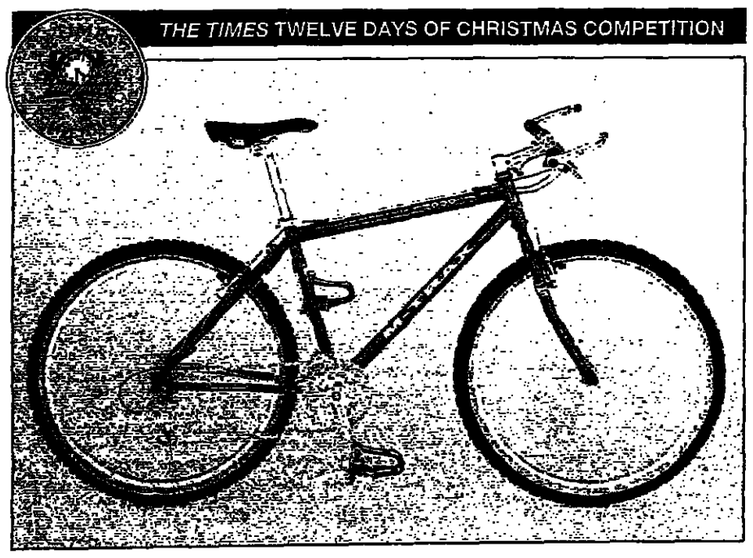
Most of the Catholic-Protestant warfare in Glasgow is played out through support for the football teams Rangers and Celtic, and as such it tends to be more of a Saturday pastime than a day-by-day obsession, as reporter Henry McDonald pointed out.

There is, of course, a symbiotic relationship between Belfast and Glasgow, in that Protestants migrated to the former from the latter while Glasgow's Catholic minority is an immigrant population.

The fact that the division is exemplified in the football clubs may say more about football than it does about religion, but there is a particular ugliness surrounding the concept of a mere game used as a vehicle for religious differences. A sobering thought, this week.

PETER BARNARD

THE TIMES TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS COMPETITION



Three Raleigh mountain bikes to be won

Today *The Times*, continuing our *Twelve Days of Christmas* competition, brings you the chance to win a Raleigh M-Trax 2000 Shimano equipped mountain bike.

In the traditional carol, on the third day of Christmas, your true love would have sent you three French hens, but your favourite newspaper thought a more acceptable — and practical — present would be a prize that will keep the children happy long after the festive season is over.

The bikes are worth £420 each, including delivery. They come in four frame sizes: 16 1/2inch suitable for 26-32 inch inside leg. 18inch for 27-32 inside leg, 20inch for 29-34 inside leg and 22inch, for 32-37 inside leg.

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HOW TO ENTER

Simply identify the following lines from a popular Christmas carol.

And a cold, frosty morning
Good morrow masters all

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THEATRE: Jonathan Harvey goes a bit too far; booing the villains in an alternative panto

Laughing at the sad

Rupert Street Lonely Hearts Club
Criterion

RUPERT STREET is in Bromley-by-Bow and its lonely hearts are at No 15. They are two youngish women who wander into Shaun's bedsit in search of company, and two men, one of them Shaun's gay older brother and the other a butch transvestite with a job at McDonald's. Dean, the tranny, wants Marti, the gay brother; Marti loves Shaun; and Shaun pines for his vegan Juliet, away in Barbados.

This is the latest play from the prolific Jonathan Harvey and, like Tennesse Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*, is a transfer from the Donmar, where it was co-produced by English Touring Theatre. He has an acute ear for different speech habits, skilfully placing phrases at cross-purposes to generate laughter, of which there is a great deal, chiefly in the first half. He shows daring in his treatment of the woman from upstairs, who is possibly called Clarine, although she is by no means sure of this.

While not precisely unhinged, her mental hinges are evidently under strain, yet Harvey makes us laugh repeatedly at her breezy attempts at social chatter, all of which go wrong. Elizabeth Berrington gives a brilliant performance as this dotty creature with her adenoidal squeaks, but she and the author walk a tightrope across the ugly chasm of mockery.

Unease is compounded by Harvey's undoubted mockery of George (Wendy Nottingham), the second woman, a transfixingly boring teacher who knits Javanese-patterned skullcaps, sets off on demos to counter fascism in Welwyn, and is so drearily sensible she becomes hilarious.

Marti and Shaun are each constrained by emotional inhibitions that Harvey does not manage to make us believe in. Scot Williams's Shaun is disconsolate and Marti (Tom Higgins, excellent) conceals his fears and shame beneath the royal icing of camp.

I therefore have mixed feelings about the play, but none about the quality of the performances in John Burgess's production. James Bowers's hunky Dean, equably stepping out of his Fifi skirt and feathers and into his Big M uniform, is a moment to cherish.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Ham, but no turkey

The Streets of Dublin
Shaw, Brixton

THIS spoof melodrama, stuffed with absurdly sneaking villains and amusingly sickening goodies, is an enjoyable alternative to the seasonal pile of pantos. Adapting Dion Boucicault's 19th-century barnstormer, which changed its title as it toured *(The Poor Of New York, The Streets of Islington*, wherever), Counterpoint Theatre Company's full-throttle cast and on-stage pianist make merry with newly added comical songs and Boucicault's own plot. The latter is rife with baddy bankers, blackmail and burning houses, not to mention a suicide attempt by our hero Sir Livingstone's sweet girl Lucy, reduced to beggary but saved for wedding bells in the end.

Fergus Linehan's adaptation frames the play as a production by Boucicault's own travelling players, over-acting something rotten and trying to remember which town the action is set in this time. The placing of this particular staging in Dublin is peculiar because we have obviously rolled in off the not so fair streets of Brixton. The scaffolding set is, unlike the fine costuming, a tad scrappy. The historic spectacular of the burning house is smoke without fire. Still, it fits the scenario of the ropey troupe.

Moreover, the frame, which could result in tired cod-acting, actually lets loose truly funny over-the-top performances under Judith Roberts's high-energy direction. Edmund Kente's gaunt Bloodgood, the banker with evil moustache, speed-counts a wodge of money with mad scrabbling and sings his mean solo, *You can boo till you're blue*, snapping his fingers like some frightful matador. Adam Meggido is terrific as Bloodgood's small satanic clerk, punctuating his lines with preposterously staccato twists, his legs at angles Edmund Kean never reached.

Peter Land's Boucicault irritates at first with his cloak-swishing and bombastic volume, but Land tickles you increasingly with his vain posturing, indelible grin, and sudden bursts of song when supposedly broken-hearted. The production is sharp in its satire of token sympathies with poverty. Meanwhile, the fulsomely trilling suicide duet, by Lucy and her mother (Fo Cullen and Judith Paris) sends up sentimental tragedy a treat.

KATE BASSETT

Peter Ackroyd on the Dickens of *Little Dorrit*

Comfort lost in the pursuit of ecstasy

THE LETTERS OF CHARLES DICKENS
Volume 8: 1856-1858
Edited by Graham Storey and Kathleen Tillotson
OUP, £94

The three years of Charles Dickens's life covered by this volume were filled with restlessness, energy and anxious labour. They were, in other words, quite characteristic. At one moment he is in Boulogne, the next in Paris, or Dover, or London — "ran across Piccadilly to Stratton Street — stayed there an hour — and shot off here. I have been in four cabs today at a cost of Thirteen Shillings." It is characteristic of him, also, to capitalise the sums of money involved.

And what was he doing in London, this middle-aged and very eminent novelist? He was buying a new house; he was editing a weekly periodical, *Household Words*; he was acting and directing a drama partly written by Wilkie Collins; he was making speeches; he was helping to organise a home for fallen women, even concerning himself with the drainage of the soil and the fabric of the inmates' dresses; he was preparing a series of public readings which would take him all over the country (and which would, eventually, kill him); he was devising his famous Christmas stories.


Dickens in 1858: mid-life crisis

He was, incidentally, also writing *Little Dorrit* in monthly instalments. "Its always Yesterday with you," a character in one of his Christmas stories puts it, "or else Tomorrow, and never To Day — that's where it is." He repeated the same sentiments directly to John Forster in one of his many sad (if somewhat theatrical) letters during this period, "... to be never at rest, and never satisfied, and ever trying after something that is never reached, and to be always laden with plot and plan and care and worry... As to repose — for some men there's no such thing in this life." He was still as alert and as sprightly as ever — with his military bearing and colourful clothes, he was an exotic creature on the streets of London — but he was beginning to look "careworn".

We may be inclined to believe that his reference to "plot" in that letter is ambiguous, since all the wonderful drama and mystery of his personality were even then being explored within the chapters of *Little Dorrit*. It was described by *Blackwood's Magazine* as "twaddle", one of the many thoughtful judgments now being passed upon him by the more intellectual reviewers. Twaddle has never lasted so long, or so brilliantly, however, since the central story and characters of the book are sustained by Dickens's own sense of the fate overtaking him and his country. Yet it is one of his funniest novels, and he laughed out loud as he wrote down the rambling dropsical speech of Flora Finching.

The spectacle of Dickens laughing to himself, at the sheer comedy of his own inventiveness, is one of the many arresting images to be found in this latest collection of his correspondence. We see here how much he loved murders and fires, melodramatic scenes from real life and mountebanks from the streets. Everything is extravagantly put: "unspeakable", "overwhelming" "paralysing" and "infinite" are some of his favourite adjectives. In the letters describing his public readings, he revels in all the sobbing and crying which he was able to induce in the audiences. He calls himself "the remarkable man", "the Inimitable" and even, on one occasion, "the under-signed honey pot". He was a master of that humour which in these latter days has been called "camp": of one rather ageing and precious bachelor he writes, "... he asked me the extraordinary question, 'how Mrs Williams, the American Actress, kept her wig on?' I then perceived that mankind was to be in a conspiracy that he wears his own hair".

So the eye, and the voice, of the novelist are ubiquitous in this correspondence. Of his dismantled study in Tavistock House he remarks on "all the chairs upside down as if they had turned over like birds and died with their legs in the air"; of his landlord in Boulogne he notes that he "went backing up the Avenue, with such a generous, simple, amiable face that I half expected to see him back himself straight into the Evening-Star (which was at the end of it) without going through the ceremony of dying first". He remarks upon the smallest details, like the movements of a goldfinch in a cage, and even organises his letters as if they were indeed substitute works of fiction. In the messages to his somewhat hapless deputy at *Household Words* he reels off items with sub-headings such as "Begging Letters", "You" or "Me". To his illustrator, Hablot Browne, he remarks "Pray do not neglect this change". It is the same despotic streak within his nature that inspired his furious charge against the Royal Literary Fund, with the cry that "I am resolved to reform it or ruin it".

The hardness of the man emerges most clearly, however, in the events that dominate the last half of this volume. He suffered a familiar crisis of middle age, when he suddenly realised that he no longer loved his wife and had become half-disgusted with the course of his existence, but his reactions were never conventional. "I must do *something*," he wrote in his usual strident manner, "or I shall wear my heart away."

He did do something. He expelled poor Catherine Dickens from his life and his affections without any regret or compunction, literally partitioning their own old bedroom in halves; he began to chase helplessly after a much younger woman, and at the same time to quarrel with his oldest friends. He demanded that a public statement about his affairs be issued in all the leading newspapers, much to the dismay of those who knew him best.

He had finally entered the whirlwind of his own passions, which were so strangely compounded of anger, resentment, anxiety and childhood horror. He could think of nothing but his own position and rode over the feelings of other people, to use one of his own self-images, "like a dragoon". He terrified and amazed his children, who were reminded that "their father's name is their best possession". They believed him to have gone mad.

This crisis of his middle age cast a long shadow; during his last years he became a much more hysterical and even maniacal figure. Yet he kept on writing. He knew by now that the gift of genius did not necessarily ensure a good character, but he had the certain belief that "my Books will speak for themselves and me, when I and my faults and virtues, my fortunes and misfortunes, are all forgotten". These letters speak for him, also, and it only remains to congratulate the editors of this volume for their skilful and resourceful reconstruction of the brilliant, desperate world of "the Sparkler".


Portrait of girl and pet monkey (1938-39) by Claude Lévi-Strauss: one of many pictures by the great anthropologist in his *Saudades Do Brasil: A Photographic Memoir*, Univ. of Washington Press, £26.95 (UK distributor: Biblios)

Last stand of the printed word

FOR MANY of my boyhood years, I had a source of information on which I felt I could always depend. *Newnes Pictorial Knowledge*, a ten-volume set that had Enid Blyton, no less, as associate editor, gave me a basic understanding of nature, history and — my favourite — fable, myth and legend, as well as providing a guide to such arcana as How Television Works, The Art of Walt Disney and Good Manners for Boys and Girls. When I outgrew *Newnes*, I felt genuinely sad and never really found an adequate substitute. No doubt the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* would have done the trick, but we couldn't afford that and there didn't seem to be much in between.

Today, the market is crowded and technologically advanced. My son's generation want Encarta or Grolier CD-Rom packages for their computers, and other multimedia encyclopaedias are already appearing to offer competition. Soundbites (from Neil Armstrong on the Moon, Kennedy's inaugural address, Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech) exist alongside 3D representations of Saturn and a slowed-up examination of how a cheetah brings down its prey. History unfolds as a series of juxtaposed events and ideas that, in some cases, seem to leap out of the screen.

It is all very exciting. But the printed word is not done yet. This Christmas, the

ENCYCLOPAEDIAS

eight-volume **Hutchinson Unabridged Encyclopedia** *(Helicon, £199)* goes on sale, providing a first-class work of reference that manages to be both comprehensive and concise while employing the latest, computer-based graphics. These are volumes to browse through for pleasure as well as to consult, properly pitched at the interested adult as much as the discriminating teenager, and they seem bang up-to-date.

HUTCHINSON'S, while generally middlebrow in its approach, really tries to cover the ground. Thus, the interested inquirer can find out about President Bush's funding of the Nicaraguan Contras on a spread that also describes the industrial relations practice of "contracting out", *contrapposta* poses in the visual arts and the mysteries of continental drift. A decent biographical list is also included, while the maps and descriptions of countries, their histories, economies and forms of government, are not only current, but encouragingly objective.

Since this is an alphabetically arranged enterprise, the extensive index, taking up more than half the last volume, might seem a little superfluous, but it does actually serve a useful function, linking ideas, individuals and concepts so that they can be looked up even when not separately listed.

For those who want an abridged, less up-to-the-minute edition of the same work for one twentieth of the price, the **Wordsworth Encylopedia** is available, in five volumes, for just £9.99. This includes 26,000 entries, 200 photographs and 300 line drawings and maps, and is remarkable value.

The new edition of the one-volume **Guinness Encyclopedia** *(Guinness, £35)* restricts its information to just 784 large-format pages, but appears to leave little out. It is a thematic volume, lavishly illustrated and with a superb maps and country reference section. It passes the Bosnia test with flying colours, taking its information right up to the recent ceasefires, and will also please those who feel that no compendium of human knowledge is complete without a photograph of Arnold Schwarzenegger in *Terminator 2*.

In its section on newspapers, journalists are described as "people who do not know much but do know how to find out everything". A little harsh perhaps, but *The Guinness Encyclopedia* is certainly one more way of finding out.

WALTER ELLIS

Esta's grave burden

Natasha Fairweather

THE HIDING ROOM
By Jonathan Wilson
Secker & Warburg, £10

Jerusalem has been called a necropolis. The burden of history hangs so heavily on the city that the dead continually impinge on the lives of the living. Published soon after the burial of Yitzhak Rabin in Jerusalem, Jonathan Wilson's first novel takes on an additional poignancy. For *The Hiding Room*, too, opens with a funeral in Jerusalem.

The burial business is booming in Israel. Many foreign Jews, locked inextricably into diaspora life, want to be united with the land of Israel in death. The importing of corpses has become a macabre adjunct to the tourist industry. But Esta Weiss, the fragile heroine of Wilson's novel, has never shown much affection for Israel. So when Daniel, her London-born son, discovers that her last wish was to be buried in Jerusalem, he knows that she is sending him a message from the grave.

The Hiding Room is a well-constructed novel of modest ambitions. It tells of Daniel Weiss's quest to uncover the secrets of his mother's past and find his father. It is a journey which juggles the reader between contemporary Israel, which Wilson describes lovingly and convincingly, and 1940s Egypt and British Mandate Palestine. All of the characters are restricted by their respective historical straitjackets; the strength of the novel lies in the fact that Wilson eschews stereotypes and creates characters who behave in unpredictable ways. The British are not invariably the baddies, although they are rightly shown to be pursuing an untenable and cruel policy in Palestine. The Zionists too can be racist. The Arabs, although initially hostile, are generous to the point of bankruptcy.

Archie Rawlins, a young British intelligence officer in Cairo, should be as arrogant and prejudiced as his contemporaries. But there is something about the skinny vulnerability of Esta which turns scepticism about the Nazi atrocities in Europe into faith, and physical revulsion into sexual attraction. Captain Mendoza is an unorthodox army rabbi. A man of action rather than faith, he has a distinctly earthly taste for spirits and young men. And although it costs him his position in the religious hierarchy, he applies the Jewish maxim "If you save a life, you save the world" and puts Esta's future before his own career.

In spite of its descriptive prowess, however, *The Hiding Room* never quite adds up to the sum of its parts. The plot is predictable and somewhat banal. And the ethereal personality and diminutive frame of Esta is not strong enough for its narrative burden.

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The Times and *The Sunday Times*, are offering readers the chance to win one of 80 holidays for two, plus 10 per cent discounts, to a range of destinations throughout the world.

Today's prize is a nine-day coach tour of Tasmania, the island which nestles at the foot of Australia, affectionately known as "The Apple Isle". For the prizewinner and a guest, including return flights from the UK, the holiday is worth £3,740. The trip takes in some some spectacular scenery, including Cradle Mountain National Park (above). You will also see wild animals like wallabies, possums, Tasmanian Devils and tiger cat.

DEPARTURES: April 6, 13 and 27, May 4 and 11, 1996. The price for the land tour with our 10% discount is £792 per person, down from £880, and does not include return flights.

TODAY'S PRIZE: To win today's holiday answer the question below and phone our competition hotline: **0891 40 50 34** which is open until midnight tonight. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

1. What is Tasmania's nickname?

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From the banks of the sacred Ganges

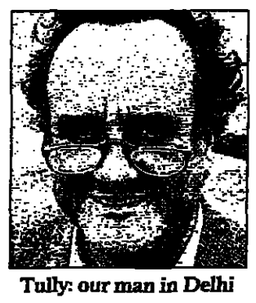
Tunku Varadarajan

THE HEART OF INDIA
By Mark Tully
Viking, £16

Not since Lord Curzon and Rudyard Kipling has there been a Britisher who can observe India as completely as Mark Tully does. The author of *The Heart of India* may not have Curzon's geopolitical intuition or Kipling's rich vocabulary, but he has penetrated Hindustan with as much panache as either of them.

This latest book by the BBC's Delhi correspondent emeritus is much better than his last, *No Full Stops in India*, which lapsed into mawkishness. It tells its readers gentle stories that are, well, just stories. Unlike other recent books about India, it is neither too long nor exhaustingly inventive.

The Heart of India is about ordinary people: village women who cannot have children; a landless serf whose patience snaps and who hacks his feudal lord to death; a rural girl who goes to college in Benares and becomes "modern"; an *ikka* (pony-trap) driver whose life is changed by modern technology. There is no gratuitous use of Hobson-Jobson; his characters drink toddy and occasionally call each other things like *behenchod* and *chutiya*, vulgarisms which Cox & King's, the oldest tour operator to the subcontinent, would never tell its customers about.


Tully: our man in Delhi

In the directness of his style and parable, Tully has taken Munshi Premchand, the Indian novelist, as his model. Premchand wrote his novels and short stories in the first third of this century; and his succinct tales were set in the parts of India which Tully knows best.

The states of the Indo-Gangetic plain are India's most populous and quintessential. Tully has spent many years rummaging around there, in the country's "cow belt", looking for both political insights and stories. The former he has given to us, famously, over the radio; the latter he now gives us in this charming collection.

Tully's language is simple and unadorned. In this, too, he resembles Premchand, whose use of demotic Hindustani was a radical departure from the high-flown formalism of classical Indian literature.

Tully does not preach here, nor does he seem to take sides. He has, instead, the mansuetude of a storyteller at peace with his characters. "I hope the stories are accepted," he writes in his Introduction, "as they are intended to be — a tribute to the Indian villager."

They certainly are that, and a very effective one, too. The home-spun stoicism of rural India is caught nicely in Tully's observations. Nor does the glee and piquant humour escape him. There is also, in the north Indian countryside, a certain languid wistfulness: it is that which drew Premchand there, and later drew Tully. And that is what makes *The Heart of India* such a pleasant, lilting book.

A sex and logic-chopping novel

Amanda Foreman

RASERO
By Francisco Rebolledo
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.99

Don Fausto de Rasero y Oquendo, the hero of the Mexican writer Francisco Rebolledo's first novel *Rasero*, is a bald Spanish diplomat at the court of Louis XV. His passions are Enlightenment philosophy and full-breasted women, both native to the Parisian salon. Despite his ugliness, Rasero luckily possesses an intelligence bordering on genius, and hence an irresistible sexual attractiveness. But Rasero is cursed with second sight, for each time he makes love he has a vision of some 20th-century atrocity.

Rasero is an innocent Faustus driven to despair by his supernatural knowledge of the depths of depravity awaiting mankind. In his search for a meaning to life, he has a series of encounters with the greatest philosophers of the age. This allows Rebolledo to take his readers on a tour of ideas, beginning with Descartes and encompassing Voltaire, Rousseau and Lavoisier.

But with one eye on Derrida, Rebolledo suggests that true meaning lies in the structure behind ideas. At the end of the novel the narrator is revealed as Rasero's 20th-century descendant Francisco. The two men share one consciousness: the actions of one simultaneously affect the other. The structure of life, Rebolledo seems to argue, is a circle, and that meaning is more symbolism.

The sophistication of the novel's ideas is not matched by their rendering into English. With lines like "She was one of the few respectable ladies of the country who dared use this daring cosmetic touch", *Rasero* can seem embarrassingly amateurish. Yet even with a poor translation, parts of the book shine with imaginative vigour. Rebolledo is capable of a lush, romantic style reminiscent of Gabriel García Márquez.

Most of the time, however, he is distracted by the urge to lard his pages with facts. Too often his characters launch into soliloquies which sound as though copied from an encyclopaedia. When a writer places so much emphasis on historical detail he puts himself under judgment, asking his readers to accept his disquisitions on trust. What are we to make, then, of such clangers as calling Count Axel Fersen, Marie-Antoinette's reputed lover, Hans Fersen? Or take Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, who went to Turkey in 1716 and brought back smallpox inoculation: Rebolledo robs her of her title, marries her to the Montagu family, no relation to the Wortley Montagus, and retards her discovery by a decade.

The Pegasus Prize was founded in 1977 by the Mobil Corporation, for literature which is rarely translated into English. "Rasero", the lengthy publisher's note explains, won out of 427 entries in the Latin American division before a panel of distinguished jurors. With such hype the book has a very difficult task in fulfilling its readers' expectations. That it fails to do so is due to Rebolledo's over-ambitious attempt to combine the whimsy of magic realism with the accuracy of historical fiction. The result is a wooden pastiche which, compounded with an unfortunate translation, fails to do justice to Rebolledo's ideas.

هكذا من الأصل

A new life of the man who created Sherlock Holmes fails to explain his abiding obsession with spiritualism, argues **Ian McIntyre**

Elementary clues to a study in obstinacy

CONAN DOYLE
By Michael Coren
Bloomsbury, £18.99

Anyone with ambitions to write a life of Arthur Conan Doyle faces several dispiriting obstacles. One is that many of Conan Doyle's papers, a valuable source for several earlier biographies, are no longer open to public scrutiny. Another is that many putative readers are much less interested in Conan Doyle than in his most famous fictional creation. (Large numbers of Sherlockians will, I realise, bridle at the word fictional. Perhaps I may proceed unmolested if I acknowledge that the lodgings in Baker Street are rooted even more deeply in the virtual reality of English life than The Bull at Ambridge.)

"Of the numerous books published about Conan Doyle," Coren declares — hubristically, some may feel — "many are best left alone." He has a point, though. The best argument for a new biography is that none of those we already have is entirely satisfactory. Hesketh Pearson's short study, published during the war, is a lively enough read, but shies away from any serious examination of Conan Doyle's spiritualism. John Dickson Carr's *Life* is more solid, though the American's reverential tone does not fall altogether easily on British ears.

Conan Doyle's French biographer, Pierre Weil-Nordon, although not notable for Gallic sparkle, made a substantial contribution in the 1960s, admirably translated into English by Frances Partridge. Some of the most penetrating writing about Conan Doyle is in Owen Dudley Edwards's *The Quest for Sherlock Holmes* (1983), but he carries the story only up to Conan Doyle's late twenties.

All the more surprising, then, given the scope for the extension of the biographical quest begun by Edwards, that Coren should set his sights so modestly.

Coren does not linger over the early Edinburgh days (lips will be pursed in Conan Doyle's and Miss Jean Brodie's native city at the misspelling on line three of a prominent topographical landmark). The young Arthur Ignatius is soon back from Stonyhurst and Feldkirch — remarkably well-adjusted, Coren feels, given the rigours of his Jesuit education — and immersed in medical studies.

In his spare time he was already writing steadily, mainly adventure stories and historical romances. *Chambers' Journal* accepted *The Mystery of Sarassa Valley* and paid him three guineas. He was already questioning and soon rejected his Roman Catholicism. He was, he wrote later, "driven to agnosticism, but never to atheism, for I had a very keen perception of the wonderful poise of the universe." The first stirrings of his interest in spiritualism date from the early 1880s.

By the end of that decade he had had some success with an historical novel, published the first Holmes story, and decided to abandon medicine for literature. Within a couple of years he was telling his mother that Holmes was about to vanish, never to reappear. "I saw that I was in danger of having my hand forced," he wrote in his memoirs, "and of being entirely identified with what I regarded as a lower stratum of literary achievement." His public was not pleased. Complaints were sent to MPs and the Prince of Wales and Conan Doyle received threatening letters.

Coren does his best, within the compass of his 200 pages, to tell the rest of the colourful story — the knighthood for propaganda services in the Boer War, Conan Doyle's defence of Roger Casement, his attempts to enter Parliament, his row with Bernard Shaw over the sinking of the *Titanic*. He touches on the bewildering range of causes and controversies which Conan Doyle embraced — the need for a new international language, the organisation of British sports, divorce law reform and the Loch Ness monster.

Conan Doyle's first full book on spiritualism, *The New Revelation*, appeared when the First World War was ending, and from then until his death in 1930 the subject eclipsed his interest in all else. He travelled extensively, lectured, took part in seances, made friends (and then fell out) with Houdini, opened and managed a psychic bookshop and museum.

In the preface of his last book he quoted a passage from *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*: "She was one of those persons who have allowed their lives to be gnawed away because they have fallen in love with an idea several centuries before its appointed appearance in the history of Civilisation. She hurled herself against the obstinacy of her time."

The central weakness of Coren's book is that it fails to give a sufficiently coherent and convincing account of why Conan Doyle hurled himself against the obstinacy of *his* time in the way he did. The question is addressed with greater insight and assurance by both his French and American biographers.

Coren, praised here and in America for his biographies of Wells and Chesterton, defines his intention as being to describe Conan Doyle the man — an amalgam of the doctor, the adventurer, the journalist and above all the spiritualist. He concedes that it is what Holmes once called "quite a three-pipe problem". The conclusion at the end of this too-brief biographical sketch must be that on this occasion Coren did not have enough tobacco in his pouch.


Conan Doyle in the Boer War: Britain's staunchest advocate

Footfalls in the Abbey

David Ekserdjian

WESTMINSTER ABBEY AND THE PLANTAGENETS
By Paul Binski
Yale, £45

ROUBILIAC AND THE 18TH-CENTURY MONUMENT
Sculpture as Theatre
By David Bindman and Malcolm Baker
Yale, £40

If you go to school at Westminster — as I did — then the Abbey is your school chapel. Being stared at every morning of my first term by Epstein's terrifying bust of Blake, I was left in no doubt that this was an extraordinary place. The publication of two books wholly or partly concerned with it, together with the catalogue of an exhibition devoted to the various restorations it has undergone over the last 900 years, only serves to confirm that sense. The great thing about the Abbey is that it has never stopped being added to, although it has to be admitted that not all the changes have been for the better. Above all, it is a unique record of our nation's history, and its nearest continental equivalents do not begin to compare. Even if you managed to amalgamate Saint-Denis and the Pantheon, or crossed St Peter's with Santa Croce, the results would fall short of the mark.

Paul Binski's study is concerned with the Abbey in the 13th and 14th centuries, and focuses on the relationship between the building and its contents and the royal family. This is art history with the emphasis on the history, but Binski is no dusty antiquarian whose senses swim at the discovery of a new fragment of this or that. Names of such figures as Habermas and Hobsbawm are liberally spattered about the text, and act as reminders of the fact that medievalists have generally proved more willing to cosy up to the modernistic strategies — to use a favourite word — of the New Art History than their Renaissance counterparts. But little here will frighten the horses, and the observation that works of art do not simply reflect the history of ideas, but are instead a part of it, is an important one.

The royal tombs in the Abbey, which stretch on beyond the historical limits of Binski's Plantaganet brief, are nevertheless confined to the east end, where the magnificent tomb of Henry VII by Torregiano (whose other, murkier claim to fame is that he broke the young Michelangelo's nose in a punch-up) is the grand finale. By the 18th century, however, not even moderate eminence, far less supreme distinction, were regarded as prerequisites for being buried — or having a monument — in the Abbey. Some exceptionally mediocre specimens got in, as becomes clear from a new study of Roubiliac, many of whose finest efforts in the funerary line grace the Abbey, by David Bindman and Malcolm Baker.

One of the many fascinating issues they address is the correct way to universalise the achievements of the resolutely undistinguished. Roubiliac failed to secure the commission for the monument to Wolfe of Quebec, who met a hero's end on the Heights of Abraham, with a design for a crypto-*Pietà*, having previously produced a number of successful monuments for generals and admirals who died in their beds. Another violent death inspired the most far-flung of all Roubiliac's efforts in Port Royal, Jamaica, but Lieutenant Stapleton being blown up by his own cannon is far from glamorous. Bindman describes the scene as unparalleled in its lack of heroism, but the monument in the Abbey to Thomas Thynne (died 1682), who was "barbarously murdered in the Haymarket", and is shown in his carriage being shot at by Königsmark's hired assassins armed with flintlocks would appear to represent some sort of precedent.

If the Bindman contribution to this particularly well-matched pantomime horse concerns the why, then Malcolm Baker gives us the how, and a catalogue of the monuments to boot. His close attention to technical detail, especially with regard to how these great machines were actually assembled, makes this section utterly compelling. It is rewarding to be forced to realise that the tombs did not just drop into position from on high, fully formed, but instead bore rather more of a resemblance to a set of DIY kitchen units — like which they had a nasty habit of not quite fitting together properly.

The exhibition of the Abbey's restorations has been and gone, but the book richly deserves to live on. It tells a fascinating story well, and dwells upon such implausible tricks of fate as the concatenation of circumstances that has caused the remains of Grinling Gibbons's Whitehall altarpiece, carved by Arnold Quellin, to end up in the obscure parish church of St Andrew's in Burnham-on-Sea.


This monument in Staglieno cemetery, Genoa, is among many voluptuous funerary statues photographed by David Robinson in *Saving Graces* (Norton, £18.95/£10.95)

Whose light is spent?

Adam Zeman

ON BLINDNESS
By Bryan Magee and Martin Milligan
OUP, £16.99

I AM WATCHING the branches of a willow playing in the breeze, picked out against the last light of the sunset. A flick of my eyes brings a page of a book into view. As natural as breathing, sight offers the seeing its pleasures and its uses in every moment of our waking lives.

How is the mental universe of the blind, especially those blind from birth, affected by the lack of man's pre-eminent sense? *On Blindness* is a timely, absorbing and poignant exploration of this issue, in the form of a correspondence between two notable philosophers: Bryan Magee, known to many from television, and Martin Milligan, professor of philosophy at Leeds, a man blind almost from birth. The letters are wide ranging, but return repeatedly to one key question: what can the seeing know that the blind cannot?

Magee launched the correspondence to back a philosophical conviction: that we have a tendency to take the world as we perceive it for reality itself. We forget that the human mind only allows us a quirky partial view. In this sense we are all in the predicament of the blind. Magee's aim in these letters was to use blindness as a model with which to probe the limits of human understanding as whole.

He had not reckoned with Martin Milligan. Milligan came from a working class family in the Gorbals, losing his sight as a small child. He triumphed over both social disadvantage and physical impairment, to lead a successful professional life, and, by the sound of things, an eventful personal one. Of all men he was least likely to accept Magee's insistent message that the blind have an impoverished "conception of reality".

Philosophy begins and ends in argument; the exchange of letters is an old and excellent framework for it. The authors' personalities shine through the dialogue: Magee is expansive, disputatious, provocative; Milligan measured, acute, reflective, to the point.

Who gets the better of the argument? Milligan is persuasive defending his claim that the blind can know almost "everything about colour and other visible things which sighted people know". He gives a marvellous account of darkness, as implying "difficulty in perception, the unknown and incomprehensible, threat and danger, and also sometimes warmth, privacy and safety against intrusive perceptions by others".

But surely, you may well object, a blind person misses out on what really matters about visible things: *how they look*. Sadly we will never know how Milligan would have developed his reply. In the course of the correspondence he fell ill, and within weeks the partial darkness with which he had contended for so long became complete.

Untimely timelessness

Robert Nye is one of that dying breed, the poetic poet. In his other career as a novelist he seems drawn principally to themes that include the legendary and the magical, in semi-biographical fiction on figures such as Gilles de Rais, Faust and Merlin. His poems are at their strongest when they resemble incantations. *Self-Curse* begins like this:

Bitter, be bitterer;
Rue, be more rueful;
Ghost go through you
And not you them.

It is significant perhaps, that Nye, who was born in England, now lives in Ireland. There is a grand tradition of cursing in Irish poetry. I wish more English poets would indulge in it occasionally.

Humour is always rare in lyrical poetry. I could have done with a little more of the streak of wickedness which caused the author to picture his grandmother saying: "Right? Just you bugger off, you bird!" to a nightingale at the end of *Riposte*. It gives a

Fiona Pitt-Kethley

COLLECTED POEMS
By Robert Nye
Sinclair-Stevenson, £15

pleasing turnaround to the mock-Keatsian style of the lines that preceded.

More often Nye is tempted to turn the clock back centuries, as in his poem about the White City stadium, where all the punters sound like alchemists. He seems more comfortable in a Victorianised medieval world, peopled by Joan of Arc, Robin Hood and King Arthur. These are not real heroes and heroines, but the sanitised versions that appear in Kipling's *Puck of Pook's Hill* or Sunday School prize-books of the last century.

The poems are arranged chronologically, and the later sections are more autobiographical. I enjoyed *Childhood Incident*, where Mrs Nye Senior roasts his grubby copy of Elizabeth Barrett Browning to kill the germs:

I can still see those pages that
curled and cracked,
and the limp green leather
cover that peeled away like
lichen
From the body of the book
and the edges turning gold,
And the hot glue's hiss and
bubble down the spine.

that would delight Book-lovers everywhere will sympathise. But the poem is not entirely tragic, and goes on to end almost mystically: the baked book gives off "a whiff of incense".

While there is much to be praised in the melody of individual lines and stanzas, the thing that I find slightly odd about Nye's work is the fact that it does not seem to belong to the time in which it was written. Robert Nye was born at the start of the Second World War, but there is nothing about the war or its aftermath in his poems; indeed, there are remarkably few references to modern life. All but one or two of these poems could have been written fifty, perhaps even a hundred years ago.

Brave, but old world

Philip Howard

WILL
A Portrait of William Douglas-Home
By David Fraser
André Deutsch, £17.99

William was the Douglas-Home who became a playwright — in contrast to his brothers of that powerful Border clan: Alec, the politician, and Henry, the bird-man. He had a long and prolific innings, writing 45 plays that were produced (eight more than Will Shakespeare), but over more than 50 years. The productivity and length of his career damaged his critical reputation. And some of his plays weren't much good either.

He started writing plays at Eton and Oxford, and never wanted to do anything else. They were the well-made light comedies and Galsworthy social dramas, which are treated demotically by television soaps today, for the blue-rinsed coach trade. Some of them, such as *The Reluctant Debutante* and *The Chiltern Hundreds*, were top of the middle-class pops. A typical Douglas-Home comedy might feature duchesses and debutantes, jailbirds and lovable bolshies with red beards, bookies, bishops and actresses, with much ado on the telephone and misunderstandings in the library. There would be no evil or squalor, and even his stage villains would be given witty exit lines. Appearing in it would be the fruitiest character actors in the business: A.E. Matthews, Wilfrid Hyde-White, Anna Massey, Celia Johnson.

His craft was superseded by the postwar drama of the "kitchen-sink" and "angry young men", by satire and social realism for a less deferential age. New Comedy took over from Old. While his nephew Charles Douglas-Home was Editor of *The Times*, William kept hanging in his hall lavatory a message to Charlie: "Sack Irving Wardle" (Wardle was theatre critic of *The Times*, and then the best in the business). He was sensitive to criticism and pig-headed about producers who tried to improve his scripts. So he made brave curtain speeches to hecklers in defence of plays that had been booed, and invited all theatre critics to debate their judgments on stage. Not surprisingly, none of them turned up.

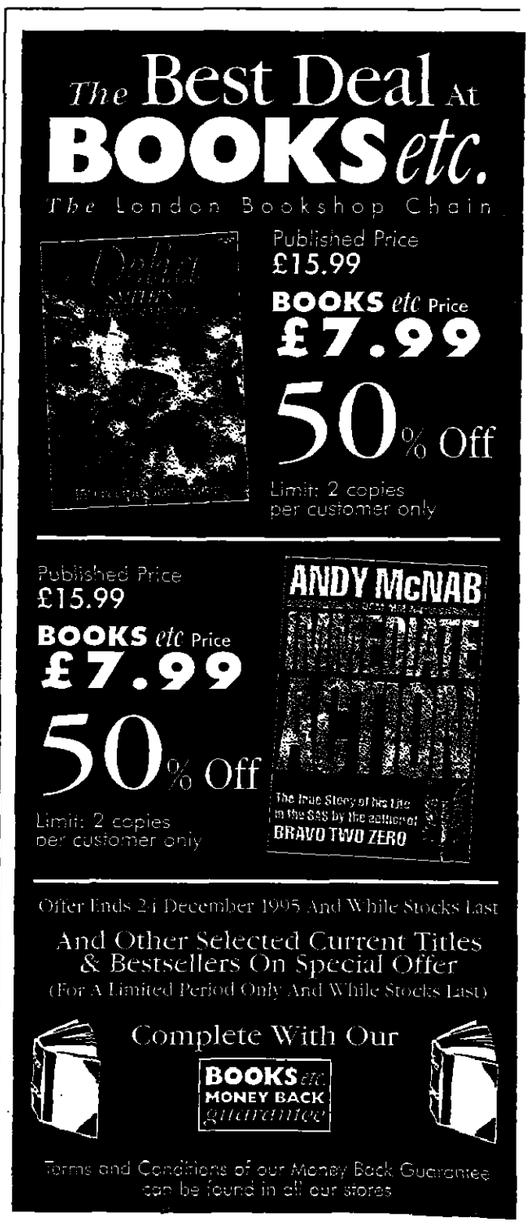
Douglas-Home was a butterfly who wanted to be a bee. He was an idealist who stood for Parliament in favour of appeasement to try to avoid the Hitler war. He was cashiered and sent to Wormwood Scrubs for refusing an order to join in the destruction of Le Havre. Appeasement — literally, making peace — is a noble act, but it does not enhance the career prospects of junior officers who have taken the king's commission at the end of a bloody war. Like P.G. Wodehouse, he was out of touch with the national life-and-death desperation about the war. But whereas Wodehouse's butlers and bright young things and pig-keeping peers are timeless because they live in Never-Never Land, Douglas-Home's have dated because they are taken from his family and friends at the Hirsel before the world earthquakes of war and postwar.

Appropriately, silly-ass "Johnners", Brian Johnston, was William's lifelong friend from Eton. When William lost his driving licence at Oxford in the Brideshead Thirties, Johnston acted as his groom while he drove himself to lectures in a phaeton. At his wedding at St Peter's, Eton Square, Johnston instructed his fellow ushers, "Friends of the bridegroom on the left, bride on the right." Wrongers, Johnners! So half way through the tide of hats and cravats, he had to bellow, "Sorry! Change over!"


William Douglas-Home

Butterflies give more passing pleasure than bees or wasps. Their best memorials are their ephemeral beauty rather than their attempts to improve the lot of mankind, which is a dodgy enterprise at the best of times, and usually counterproductive. William wanted to change the world. But instead he was condemned to amuse the theatregoing part of it. His plays are still popular in France, because they confirm French prejudice against British snobbery and eccentricity. He wanted to restore his honour after his rebellion in battle. But he did not need to. His honour and courage were never in doubt. Only his obstinacy (characteristic of his clan) prevailed.

This loving sketch, written by William's friend and neighbour and a senior military Establishment figure, makes clear what a charming, decent but impossible creature this Douglas-Home was. Most of them are. The moral, legal and military argument over the bombardment of Le Havre is given vast space for a small incident in war. "But not small to me," Douglas-Home said, 50 years on; "it was very, very BIG and still is." There are jolly Drones Club, High Life anecdotes, and critical summaries of the works. But as with all playwrights, his true biography rests in his plays. A talent to amuse is not to be laughed at. But it has the lifespan of a butterfly.



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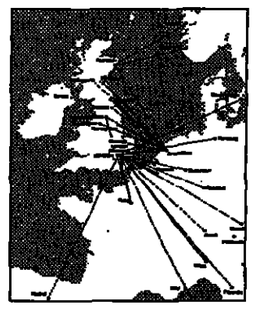
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SELECTIVE FINANCIAL RECRUITMENT

0171-377 1600

Quantitative risk management to £45,000 plus full range of benefits

The bank wants to hire a qualified applied mathematician or physician to PhD standard to join a quantitative risk group. The group's function is to provide a coherent approach across all traded markets from cash products to highly structured derivatives. The opportunity will provide introduction to a variety of traded instruments, and an overview and feel for a sometimes fragmented market.

The position involves close contact with traders; complex ideas and information need to be exchanged efficiently, sometimes under intense pressure. This should be an attraction to you. The right person will either have some relevant commercial experience after completing a first degree, or will have recently completed a PhD. In either case, you should have worked continuously with probability distributions, modelling techniques for linear and non-linear systems and complex parameter definition.

Appropriate past candidates have included computational fluid dynamicists, particle physicians and applied mathematicians. A key feature of financial markets is that they test ideas quickly and thoroughly; successful candidates have been able to demonstrate in interviews a desire to apply themselves to this test.

If this interests you call Nick Hodson or Jonathan Duckfield – do not send your CV yet.

Recruitment Matters, 15 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3EJ
Telephone: 0171-377 1600/0171-814 9900 Fax: 0171-377 1801

هكذا من الأصل

From vision... ...to reality

IT MANAGER

A major success story in the area of converging technology, this £40 million company is a wholly owned subsidiary of a leading international communications group, with a high profile reputation for engineering innovation and manufacturing excellence.

ELECTRONICS DESIGN & MANUFACTURE

To ensure that information systems continue to support commercial strategy, the company now seek to recruit a forward thinking and user oriented professional to focus on and enhance the IT systems and applications across the entire business.

£40,000 Benefits

Reporting to the Financial Controller you will assume full responsibility for an expanding 300 screen client/server environment supporting Engineering, Manufacturing, Finance, Sales, Marketing and Personnel. Of graduate calibre and with at least 10 years experience, preferably gained within a manufacturing environment, your background will include periods spent in systems analysis and software development, as well as hardware specification and operations.

South Hants

Other specific requirements for this stimulating post include: exposure to Unix and relational database systems; knowledge of modern LAN and WAN network topologies; MRP (ideally Swan or similar) software; development of Management Information Systems (MIS) and the setting up and running of a company-wide Help Desk.

The vision is total integration. The way forward is challenging and demanding and will call for technical and people management skills second to none. Obviously, the rewards will adequately reflect the importance of the role and the package will include relocation assistance where appropriate.

If you feel you can meet the challenge and the criteria outlined above, we would like to hear from you. Please write with full CV and salary details to: Ramsey Hall Limited, Avenue House, 62 The Avenue, Southampton, Hampshire SO17 1XS, quoting reference no: S01289/ST, or e-mail ramseyh@headbunt.demon.co.uk.

All applications will be acknowledged and handled in the strictest confidence.

RAMSEY HALL

SEARCH ◆ SELECTION ◆ ASSESSMENT

PUBLIC & HEALTHCARE

Managing Consultant (Development)

£28,975 to £48,314 (including Performance Related Pay)
Leeds

The National Health Service Executive Headquarters is responsible for the development and implementation of health care strategy in England.

Within the Human Resources Directorate a new post has been recently created to lead the new NHS Development Unit currently based in Bristol. The Unit is due to move to the NHS Executive HQ in Leeds during the spring of 1996. Key responsibilities of the post will include: the identification of development requirements arising from the Annual Priorities and Planning Guidance and the work of the NHS and, to develop and agree on central development initiatives for the NHS.

You will be expected to have development experience in a large public or private sector organisation and a record of achievement commensurate with this post. You will have high quality interpersonal skills, and the ability to work with senior managers in the Department of Health and NHS. Knowledge and experience of the NHS is desirable, but not essential.

This post will be offered on an initial contract of five years with the possibility of being made permanent. Secondment terms can also be considered.

For an informal discussion about the post, please contact the Head of Non-Medical Workforce Planning, Education and Training, Gill Newton on 0113 254 5687.

For more details and an application form (to be returned by 18th January 1996), write to **Recruitment & Assessment Services,** Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke (01256) 468551 (answerphone), or fax 01256 846374/846660. Please quote reference B2779.

As an equal opportunities employer the Department of Health welcomes applications regardless of gender, race, disability or sexuality.

NHS Executive Headquarters

RAS

Head of Planning

Leeds (but with some work in London)
£37,400 to £55,802 (including performance related pay)

The period 1994-96 is one of considerable change for the central management of the NHS, with the abolition of Regional Health Authorities and the establishment of a reshaped NHS Executive as the headquarters of the NHS. An important objective of these changes is that the NHS Executive should become more strategic, giving clearer direction and leadership to the NHS focused around a small number of key priorities, underpinned by strategies to support desirable change and development in the NHS.

The Head of Planning is a new post established to support the achievement of this objective. Key responsibilities will be to manage the annual planning and priorities cycle with the NHS, and to develop the NHS Executive's approach to strategic planning, drawing on best practice from other organisations in both public and private sectors.

You will have a well-developed sense of strategy; high quality analytical and conceptual skills; high quality interpersonal skills, and the ability to work with Ministers, top officials and senior managers in the Department of Health and NHS. You will be expected to have knowledge and experience of strategic planning in a large public or private sector organisation and to have a record of achievement commensurate with this post. Knowledge and experience of the NHS is desirable but not essential.

This post will be offered on an indefinite contract. Secondment terms can also be considered.

For an informal discussion about the post, please contact the Director of Planning, Alasdair Liddell on 0113 254 5807.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 18th January 1996), write to **Recruitment & Assessment Services,** Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone 01256 468551 or fax 01256 846374/846660. Please quote reference B2775.

As an equal opportunities employer the Department of Health welcomes applications regardless of gender, race, disability or sexuality.

NHS Executive Headquarters

RAS

The Royal National Theatre

will be appointing

a successor to Richard Eyre

Director of the Theatre, to begin on 1st October 1997 and to work in the interim with Richard Eyre and the Executive on future Planning.

Applications, which will be treated in strict confidence, should be sent to: The Chairman, Royal National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 9PX.

The closing date for applications is 31st January 1996.

Further information can be obtained from the Board and Committee Secretary, tel: 0171 928 2033, extension 243.

AIMING TO BE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

EUROPEAN DIRECTOR

Circa £35,000 plus benefits and car **Based in Exeter**

The six Training and Enterprise Councils of the South West are working with the business community, and with partner organisations, to direct and promote the economic development of the region. As European Union involvement in a broad spectrum of industrial and commercial activities becomes still more vital to business growth, the opportunities for a European Director to take the initiative on behalf of the South West TECs have multiplied to make this role one of considerable influence and exciting challenge.

The SWTEC's European Director will be responsible, over a three-year fixed term contract, for establishing the high level governmental rapport necessary to maximise EU input to the region by representation at national and international level. The role is a managerial, as well as an ambassadorial one, however, requiring a firm grasp of business strategy and planning, as well as a specific understanding of the economic profile of the South West.

For a Europhile graduate, ideally fluent in at least one other European language, with a track record demonstrating a full knowledge of EU processes, proven negotiation and communication skills and a vigorous, constructive management style, this position offers real involvement in the practical application of policy. Based in the City of Exeter, but travelling extensively in the UK and Europe, you should have a full driving licence and be I.T. literate.

THE TRAINING & ENTERPRISE COUNCILS OF SOUTH WEST ENGLAND

To apply, please write with a comprehensive CV to Kathryn Graham, Human Resources Dept, Devon & Cornwall TEC, Follot House, Budshead Road, Crownhill, Plymouth PL6 5XR to arrive no later than Friday 12 January 1996.

WE ARE SEEKING TO APPOINT HEALTH AUTHORITY CHIEF EXECUTIVES FOR TWO NEW AUTHORITIES TO SERVE:

- **WEST HERTFORDSHIRE**
- **EAST & NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE**

Salary: DGM Band 1 - Plus Benefits

THE POST

The Secretary of State recently announced the creation of two new Health Authorities; West Hertfordshire and East & North Hertfordshire Health Authorities are to be created with effect from 1 April 1996. We are looking to appoint two high calibre Chief Executives for these Authorities. The postholders will be responsible for promoting and improving the health of over 517,000 and 490,000 residents respectively. 35% of the allocation across the county is delegated to GPFHs/total purchasing pilots.

THE PERSON

The successful candidates will have a degree and extensive experience at Chief Executive level in a large NHS organisation, together with a demonstrable track record of delivering challenging and complex agendas. Strong leadership qualities are essential, as are well developed strategic management skills. Evidence of successful high level working relationships will be necessary.

KEY CHALLENGES

To develop effective and integrated commissioning with particular emphasis on securing value and quality in the purchasing of primary, community and secondary care.

To plan and deliver a carefully managed complex organisational change agenda creating a new and dynamic organisation, including the support of county-wide working where appropriate.

A particular focus for both of these Chief Executive posts will be to continue to lead the Authorities towards a Primary Care led NHS.

THE REWARDS

A substantial package incorporating a competitive salary and particular emphasis on continuing development of the successful candidates.

For an information pack, please contact Moyra Vermeulen at North Thames Regional Health Authority, 40 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 3QR, telephone 0171 725 5315. For an informal telephone enquiry, please contact Ron Kerr, Regional Director, North Thames Regional Health Authority on 0171 725 5427.

Shortlisting will take place early in January with interviews expected mid January.

Closing date: 5 January 1996

As equal opportunities employer applications are welcomed regardless of gender, race, disability or sexuality.

North Thames
Regional Health Authority

Commercial Director SPORTS & LEISURE

City Centre Leisure, a leading UK sports and leisure management company is seeking an experienced operations director to develop its business and results. The company has been successful and is proud of its reputation. It is ambitious and planned growth through the second round of CCT has already begun.

Send CV and letter demonstrating your experience relevant to developing the profitability of retail, hospitality, sports and leisure centres to:

Roger Quinton, *RQA Ltd*, Sussex Business Village, Lake Lane, West Sussex PO22 0AL.

Tel: 01243 555111
Fax: 01243 555555

ACCOUNT DIRECTORS

– INVESTOR IN PEOPLE NATIONAL STANDARD

Salary £28,000 – £31,000

London East Training and Enterprise Council (LETEC) is one of [illegible] country, covering an area of six inner [illegible] some 27,000 businesses.

As part of a major re-positioning of its Investor in People programme, LETEC is seeking to recruit a number of Account Directors [illegible] in the marketing and implementation of this [illegible].

Reporting directly to the Executive Director, you will take personal responsibility for a substantial portfolio of accounts, introducing the standard [illegible] those clients to achieve accreditation and the resultant business benefits.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Experience of Senior management in a medium or large company environment.
- A successful track record of achievement in sales and account management in a 'blue chip' business to business services environment.
- Experience of quality systems and Investor in People.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the demonstrable ability to influence senior executives in medium and large companies.
- Highly developed communications skills.
- A degree level education.

For an application form and further details contact: Marie Brooks, Acting Personnel Officer, 3rd Floor, Cityside House, 40 Adler Street, London E1 1EE or call 0171 377 8874 (Answerphone).

Completed application forms should be returned by 8th January, 1996.

LETEC is an equal opportunities employer

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MUTUAL FUNDS SALES

Competitive salary + benefits

Our client is the investment arm of a leading financial institution. An important area of their business expansion is the marketing of their investment products and services in Europe and Asia.

Effective communication with the branch network in France, Belgium and Germany is crucial to their success. This newly created role will focus on wholesaling and training; wholesaling through the branch staff and management, which demands the identification and translation of customer needs into products; and training which is viral to ensure branch staff have the product knowledge and sales skills to sell the products to the customer base.

You will need a broad understanding of the financial markets, and an in-depth knowledge of economics. You must be able to demonstrate effective teaching skills and have a good track record in sales.

Fluency in French and German along with an understanding of Dutch is essential in order to train branch staff in their own language. An MBA is desirable.

In the first instance, please send your full CV and covering letter to RH6044, Stafford Long & Partners Recruitment Limited, 30-32 Whitfield Street, London W1P 6HR.

RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING

Stafford Long & PARTNERS

GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTICE

BUSINESS & FUNDHOLDING MANAGER

SOUTH DEVON COAST - TORBAY

Salary: £20 - 25,000 plus benefits

If this post interests you please write with your CV by 31 December to:

Dr Simon Giles and Partners, Health Centre, Kingskerswell, Devon TQ12 5DJ

INTERVIEWS MID-JANUARY

We are an established group practice of five Doctors with a reputation for providing high quality primary medical care in a friendly and efficient setting. The practice operates from two separate villages, in one of which we are presently building a purpose-designed surgery (completion June 1996).

Fundholding status will be achieved in April 1996.

At this time of change and innovation we are seeking a candidate with the ability to combine the roles of Practice Business Manager and Manager of the fundholding budget for 7000 patients.

The successful applicant will be skilled at managing people, especially at initiating and implementing change. We are looking for an excellent communicator, a strong negotiator, an IT enthusiast and a proven financial administrator. This is an opportunity for a talented professional with at least three years' experience of managing a small/medium size business.

South Devon is an area of great natural beauty with outstanding leisure facilities and excellent schools.

ON-LINE WITH THE FUTURE.

Compaq Computer is a world leader in the manufacture of PC Servers, desktop, portable and notebook personal computers. Founded in 1982, the Company reported record sales of $ 10.9 billion in 1994. For the **Marketing Portable Division of our Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA) Headquarters** based in **Munich**, which is responsible for Compaq's international marketing business, we have the following vacancy:

TELECOM PRODUCT MANAGER

Your key responsibilities will include the development and execution of our Portables Product Group telecommunication and technical Marketing strategy. Furthermore you will develop channel/partner programs to ensure our success on the wireless market and act as an interface between the Compaq Corporation, the European Headquarters and the regional subsidiaries. Working closely together with the EMEA Engineering Group it also will be your task to manage the product development.

Our ideal candidate should have a university degree (technical/business) with solid Sales/Marketing background. A minimum of 3 years work experience in the IT-industry – preferable hardware sector – as product or sales manager and sound experience in dealing with vendors are expected. A convincing professional manner, good knowledge of portable PC business including GSM/PCMCIA/PDA technologies and excellent presentation and communication skills are indispensable. The international nature of our activities means that fluent spoken and written English is a must – another major European language would be advantageous.

If you are a teamplayer and motivated worker we would like to hear from you.

To apply please send your CV to **Ms. Gisela Klinke, Human Resources, Compaq Computer EMEA GmbH, Postfach 810244, D-81902 München.**

COMPAQ

Global Network Services Sales

• London, the South & Northern UK

Please send your CV, giving salary details, quoting the relevant reference number to the TSI Group, Columbia Centre, Market Street, Bracknell, RG12 1JG, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)1344 860919
Fax: +44 (0)1344 860581

TSI Group QUALITY IN SERVICE

■ Our client's impeccable reputation and service portfolio are matched by an uncompromising will to win. For you that means the credibility, backing and status you need to achieve your full personal potential – and to earn the rewards you should expect of such an internationally successful enterprise.

■ These are opportunities to advance your career with a dynamic organisation. One that is among the few genuinely World Class service providers.

Pre-Sales Support Consultant
c.£36k ref. ST-0347

■ You will be the datacomms technical authority, supporting bids across all data services including X.25, Frame Relay, Managed Networks – plus value added services for telex, fax and e-mail.

■ Your primary responsibilities will encompass needs definition, network design and technical validation. You will also be a key interface for customers, delivering presentations as required.

■ A background of 5 years in tele/datacomms is essential, gained with either a user or vendor. Knowledge of client/server environments will be an advantage. You should also demonstrate the skill to determine critical factors in customer application needs.

Major Account Sales
to £65k OTE ref. ST-0348

■ Here, you will focus on key blue-chip customers as well as new prospects within a specified vertical sector.

■ Your responsibilities will range from identifying and developing opportunities, to board-level relationship management.

■ If you have an outstanding background in datacomms/network sales, this is an exceptional opportunity to move your career into global managed network services.

■ Ideally a graduate, you should demonstrate your ability to add value by analysing business needs.

New Business Sales
c.£60k OTE ref. ST-0349

■ These roles focus on the fast-moving international voice traffic market. This represents a superb opportunity for you to move to the front-line of the industry.

■ Your brief will be to open up new-name business opportunities for international network services within the UK corporate market. You will need a demonstrable track record of success in telecom sales, gained over at least 5 years with a PABX/Network or similar vendor.

Central London

CSS TRIDENT
A PARITY GROUP COMPANY

OTE £25k-£55k + car + benefits

SALES CONSULTANTS

The Company: We are part of Parity plc, a fully quoted company and provide contract IT staff to industry, commerce and Government throughout the UK & Europe. We are a large successful sales organisation with an annual turnover in excess of £80m. Our market is buoyant and we seek young sales professionals to join in our expansion.

The Role: Based at our Victoria office, our sales consultants operate in a defined territory or market sector. Earnings comprise a basic salary, plus substantial commissions with many fringe benefits. We offer opportunity, training, high rewards, fun and a fast career progression for the really high flyers.

The Person: You will be young (22-30) and have experience of quota earning sales in a business to business environment. Experience in our industry is not essential – proven sales ability and ambition is. (Currently you may be selling airtime, media or office equipment, it does not matter which, as long as you can sell). Those without professional selling experience need not apply.

Applications, in writing with full CV quoting reference ST211, should be sent to :- Fiona Rogers, Directors Secretary, CSS Trident Plc, 12-18 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.
Tel: 0171 881 2000 Fax: 0171 259 0017

PARITY

MAJOR SAUDI ARABIAN TRADING COMPANY
OPERATING IN THE FOOD SECTOR
SEEKS
PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

British university degree.
Good presentability, friendly personality.
Proficiency in:

- commercial matters (purchases and sales, shipping, insurance, documentary credits and bank transactions);
- travel arrangements;
- use of personal computers (spread-sheet and word processing).

Perfect knowledge of written and spoken English. Knowledge of Arabic and Arabic culture preferred but not essential. Knowledge of accounting also preferable.

We offer long-term employment in a good working environment, salary according to experience, furnished accommodation, one month annual paid leave with air tickets for employee and family, company car and medical assistance.

Candidates are requested to indicate desired annual salary.

Applications, hand-written and accompanied by CV with references and recent picture, to:

Deputy Managing Director
(Personal and Confidential)
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Systems Professionals

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Whether you're an experienced or a first-time freelancer (or perhaps a permanent who's considering a switch to contracting) we're ready to pull out all the stops on your behalf. Our aim is to add value to your skills through the quality of service we provide.

Lucrative contracts in blue chip organisations are available now. Relevant skills include relational database, client server, case tools and PC's as well as those associated with mainframe and mid-range environments. There are opportunities from Analyst Programmer to Senior Project Manager level.

Call Natasha Cleeve or Claire Mowat on 0171 253 7172, or forward your cv by post or fax, and they will get back to you.

JMMS Contracts, Chandos House, 12-14 Berry Street, London EC1V 0AQ. Fax: 0171 253 0420.

JM CONTRACTS

BBC TELEVISION

Financial Controller
Network Television

Network TV, with BBC1 and BBC2, is an £850m business employing 2500 staff. Due to promotion, we are now looking for a Financial Controller to become a key member of the senior management team. Reporting to the Managing Director you will provide professional and strategic support and advice on a broad range of business and financial affairs.

As part of a high-profile public service business, Network TV is facing momentous change and is positioning itself to continue to be a big player in the UK television landscape. You will have a vital part to play in this process.

You will lead and be supported by three departments; finance, information technology and rights management, with overall responsibility for business affairs.

To meet this challenge you will be a qualified accountant with a strong and broad financial management background, obtained within a large, blue-chip organisation. Previous experience of the broadcasting or entertainment industry is ideal but not essential. Experience of contributing within an environment of continuous change is vital, and you must also be able to demonstrate:

* personal and commercial maturity and credibility
* proven leadership skills
* excellence as a team player
* high quality communication and presentation skills
* an understanding of the motivation and needs of highly creative staff
* an enthusiasm for the workings of television

You will be offered a competitive reward package, including car and excellent pension and health benefits, and will be based in West London.

If you feel you could respond to the above challenge you should send a CV and details of your current package (quote ref. 20728/ST) to **BBC Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W5 2WY. Tel: 0181-849 0849 Minicom 0181-231 9231** by January 2nd.

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1 - **Quality Control Superintendent**
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If you feel you are the Candidate we are looking for, please send your comprehensive C.V. by Express Mail Service to:

The Personnel Manager
P.O. Box 5987 - Dammam 31432
SAUDI ARABIA
Phone (966-3) 821-1895
Fax (966-3) 821-1540 / 822-1115

Vice Chancellor

The University of Buckingham is the UK's only independent Chartered University. Founded in 1976, the University aims to provide a first class education in an environment which inspires and encourages the individual student, to promote the advancement of learning and knowledge and, through independence, to respond rapidly and judiciously to new educational opportunities and demands.

We are seeking a suitably qualified successor to replace Sir Richard Luce DL, MA, who is due to retire as Vice Chancellor in March 1997.

Further details about the post are available from Mr J Elder, The Director of Administration & Resources, The University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1EG. Tel: (01280) 820280. Fax No. (01280) 820223. The closing date for applications is 31 January 1996.

The University of BUCKINGHAM

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FT
FINANCIAL TIMES
Information

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Excellent opportunities have arisen for 3 innovative and enthusiastic Product Marketing Managers within FT Information, the market leading business and financial markets information division of the Financial Times Group.

Reporting to the Market Development Manager, the succesful candidates will form part of a growing team focussing on the strategic development and growth of specific product lines and market areas.

Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years product management or marketing experience, preferably in the financial or business information markets. For 2 of the positions we are looking for specific experience in one or more of the following areas: fund management, index tracking, mergers and aquisitions/deal analysis, global custody and settlements. Successful candidates will need to demonstrate a thorough understanding of all aspects of marketing and be capable of assimilating information on a technical level. The ability to influence and manage multi-functional project teams and impressive communications skills will also be critical.

If you feel you have the necessary qualities to be a successful product champion and possess the drive and commitment for these challenging roles, please write enclosing your CV and covering letter with details of your current salary to: Personnel Department, Ref: Product Marketing, FT Information, 13-17 Epworth Street, London, EC2A 4DL.

ENGLISH/JAPANESE
SPEAKER exp in music industry to source production budgets from Japan. and to oversee Japanese Cultural Exchange programmes in UK. £1.25K+ Alec Clover 0171 613 2135

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is seeking a

Business Development Director

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In order to progress the consultancies future and further expand the active management of facilities arrangements a key senior director is required to organise and implement a business development plan.

The successful candidate must have a record of achievement in a similar or related role gained over the last five year period. You will be required to demonstrate management skills and possess credibility and confidence to motivate an existing team through a period of substantial growth.

Applications in confidence with career and salary details to Joseph Burns at:

Gardiner & Theobald Facilities Management
32 Bedford Square
London
WC1B 3EG

GARDINER & THEOBALD

[هكذا من الأصل]

DIRECTOR

Digital Centre of Excellence

Stoke-on-Trent

to £35,000

The Digital Centre of Excellence will be an exciting and vibrant organisation set up to help deliver the creative use of information technology in Staffordshire and the surrounding areas. It is being established on a new site at Trentham Lakes by a strong partnership which includes ICL, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Staffordshire TEC, Staffordshire University and other major organisations.

The Centre will act as the focal point in the West Midlands for raising awareness of the business benefits which advanced technology can provide. Its key objectives will be to:

- assist in raising the global competitiveness of business in the region
- help to increase the skill level amongst the workforce
- assist in creating greater economic diversity

The partners are seeking a visionary with strong business skills to lead the Centre. Whilst a background in the IT industry is not essential, an informed view of the impact of new technologies on global business patterns and on society is crucial. The Director must be able to achieve targets by building and maintaining partnerships with the business community and by developing a high profile for the Centre.

Candidates, who feel that they meet this demanding specification are invited to apply in confidence by 8 January 1996 with full career and salary details to Bernard Doyle, MSL International Limited, Quadrant Court, 50 Calthorpe Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 1TH. Please quote reference 57834.

MSL INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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The appointments are initially for a fixed term of three years, but subject to Ordnance Survey requirements and your performance, consideration will be given to extension or conversion to permanent status.

To apply, please send a detailed CV, including home and business telephone numbers and quoting ref no. 12/889 to: June Merefield, IM Personnel Officer, Room C578, Ordnance Survey, Romsey Road, Southampton SO16 4GU.

Enquiries concerning these posts please telephone 01703 792567

OS

EUMETSAT

EUMETSAT is an intergovernmental European Organisation of 17 Member States
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Established in 1986, located in Darmstadt, Germany, EUMETSAT is responsible for the establishment, exploitation and operation of European meteorological satellite systems. The initial EUMETSAT system is based on the METEOSAT Satellite. At the end of 1995 EUMETSAT will take over control of the METEOSAT spacecraft from the European Space Agency using the ground segment and Operations Division developed under the METEOSAT Transition Programme. A second generation METEOSAT is being prepared in cooperation with ESA to provide geostationary data coverage beyond the year 2000. A further programme to provide observations from polar orbit is also in preparation.

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You should have a minimum of 5 years' estates management experience, ideally gained within the public sector, supported by a proven record of managing and motivating a professional team. Your excellent communication and organisational skills will be combined with a solid background of project management. You will be able to demonstrate the financial expertise necessary to exercise strict budgetary control.

This appointment is initially for a fixed term of three years, but subject to Ordnance Survey requirements and your performance, consideration will be given to extension or conversion to permanent status.

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We operate a no smoking policy.

Closing date for applications: Monday 15th January 1996.

To apply, please send a detailed CV, including home and business telephone numbers and quoting reference number 12/890, to our advising consultants:

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Director and Chief Executive Wilton Park

Up to £55,802 (including performance pay) — **West Sussex**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is seeking to appoint a Director and Chief Executive for Wilton Park (an Executive Agency of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 1991), at the Wiston House Conference Centre at Steyning, West Sussex, as soon as possible.

Wilton Park is a residential conference centre which organises, for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, a programme of conferences on international political, economic and security and social issues. The conferences are attended by senior political, academic and business figures from many countries. The Centre, which has a staff of 32, also provides facilities for other conferences and social functions.

The Chief Executive is responsible to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for directing the Wiston House Conference Centre and attracting high level participants and maintaining the standards of Conferences at Wilton Park. Able to deal at senior levels with government and the business world, you will need strong resource management ability, including the need to raise sponsorship, coupled with good communication and social skills. Knowledge of French, German or other European languages is desirable.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Candidates must be British Citizens and must be able to show a close connection with the United Kingdom. The appointment will be for five years with the possibility of an extension for a further five years. Current starting salary is in the range £37,400 to £55,802 which includes a performance related element.

For more details and an application form (to be returned by 1st February 1996), write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke (01256) 468551 (answerphone), or fax 01256 846374/846660. Please quote reference B2741.

The FCO is an Equal Opportunities employer and applications are invited from suitably qualified candidate regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation or disability.

RAS

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The work will involve examination of novelty, assessments of patentability and infringement, as well as other investigations in the intellectual property area.

The positions would be suitable for holders of a doctor or master degrees in engineering, chemistry/bio-chemistry or pharmacology with a long record of experience in patent handling acquired in industry, in a firm of patent agents, or at a patent office. Certification to act before the EPO and international experience would be considered a merit. A good knowledge of English is necessary and a basic knowledge of German and/or French is desired.

Although applicants with lengthy experience in the patent field are preferred, applicants with less experience are also invited.

We offer a stimulating, varying and demanding range of responsibilities requiring independent action and calling for an enterprising attitude, the capacity to cooperate, and an outgoing personality.

Mats Pårup, Senior Director, Patents, and Susanne Ås Sivborg, Associate Director, Patents would be pleased to answer any inquiries.
Phone +46 8 553 262 82 resp. +46 8 553 256 29.

Applications in writing marked "Patent Specialist" should be sent by 10 January 1996 to Mats Nauclèr, Human Resources, Astra AB, S-151 85 Södertälje, Sweden.

ASTRA

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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Gwent & Rhymney Valley Health Authority



Awdurdod Iechyd Gwent a Chwm Rhymni

If you wish to discuss these opportunities in more detail please contact Jeremy Felvus, Director of Development on 01495 765164. Information packs are available from Miriam Goss on 01495 765075.

CVs must be submitted by 5 January 1996. Informal discussions will be held for both posts. Final interviews:
Director of Patient Care - 12 January 1996
Director of Finance - 25 January 1996.

Sales Director Designate

Reporting to the Managing Director

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هكذا من الأصل

Merry Gale out to end Irish drought

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Merry Gale, the talented Irish contender, gained an impressive success in the Martell Cup at Aintree

A MOOD of expectation surrounds Merry Gale's attempt on the King George VI Tripleprint Chase, the centrepiece of Kempton's Boxing Day meeting.

It is 30 years since the mighty Arkle won his only King George and it is 20 years since Captain Christy was the last Irish-trained winner of the big race. For a country that prides itself on the quality of its chasers, the barren years have been frustrating.

Typically, Jim Dreaper is unconcerned with such statistics. The practicalities of preparing Merry Gale's festive challenge from the Kilsallaghan yard in the north of Co Dublin — where his father, Tom, prepared Arkle 30 years ago — are uppermost in his mind.

With the threat of poor weather clouding the Boxing Day fixtures in Britain, Dreaper has taken the precaution of pencilling in a clash with Master Oats in next Thursday's Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown should Kempton fall foul of the weather. But the King George is decidedly his preferred option.

Dreaper yesterday said: "We are committed to Kempton and we very much want to go whatever the ground may be like. Merry Gale is best on perfect jumping ground but even if it is heavy we want to be there."

Merry Gale's chance on Tuesday is realistic enough, based on his record last season which he capped with a spectacular success in the Martell Chase at Aintree last April.

However, Dreaper feels that the Aintree victory may have been misleading. "Aintree comes at a funny time of the year, when the season starts to wind down. Barton Bank wasn't sparkling that day. The ground was too fast for him, and Monsieur Le Cure and Martomick did well to stand up after several mistakes.

"With hindsight, his sixth, on ground he didn't like, in the Cheltenham Gold Cup could be more significant. I am not being critical of the jockey [Graham Bradley] but if the horse had been ridden with more restraint, I think Merry Gale would have finished a lot closer to Master Oats," Dreaper said.

Merry Gale, without being seriously tested, gained a ten-length success under Richard Dunwoody at Punchestown last month. The victory at least proved Merry Gale's well-being and he will be in peak condition for Boxing Day, although his appearance could be deceptive.

Dreaper said: "The fitter he is, the lighter he runs up. He looks almost like a greyhound now and, if he is still in training in March, he will be extremely light. It is just the way he is. We have got used to it."

Dreaper is realistic in his comparison of Merry Gale to former top chasers he has trained, such as the 1975 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Ten Up, the dual Irish National winner, Brown Lad and, possibly, the most famous of all, Carvill's Hill.

"At the moment, Merry Gale would be joint third, about the same as Ten Up. Brown Lad was the best achiever and Carvill's Hill had the most talent. But you don't have to be a great horse to win a Gold Cup, you just have to be the best on the day. Ten Up, for instance, is not remembered as a great Gold Cup winner but he did win it," he said.

Dreaper has no illusions about the strength of Tuesday's opposition either. "Barton Bank, for instance, has looked very good in the last two King Georges, and yet he seems to have been almost ignored in the build-up. The opposition is top class so there is no point worrying about them. We are concentrating on our horse," he said.

So are many others. After all, 20 years is a long time to wait for another celebration.

Chesham moves up in distance

BY OUR RACING STAFF

THE Ascot executive has made a bid to free the Chesham Stakes from the shadow of the more prestigious Coventry Stakes — by increasing its distance from six to seven furlongs for next year's Royal meeting.

First run in 1919, the Chesham — which is restricted to the progeny of stallions who were successful over 1¼ miles or further — was contested over five furlongs until 1963 when it was stepped up to six, the same trip as the Coventry.

However, a series of poorly-contested renewals has seen it become something of the poor relation of Royal Ascot's juvenile races, necessitating a move to boost the quality of runner.

Nick Cheyne, the clerk of the course, believes the race will now attract the classy staying juvenile: "The Chesham will now stand as the only seven-furlong race for two-year-olds at the Royal meeting.

"I am hopeful that both the quality and quantity of runners it attracts will be enhanced. The change will leave the Coventry as the only six-furlong race for two-year-olds at the Royal meeting. This is slightly refining the balance of the Royal Ascot race programme, which we initiated last year with the switch of the King Edward VII Stakes to the final day."

Cheyne, who has been widely acclaimed for bringing change to Ascot's image, is confident the move will receive the support of trainers.

"Some might feel it is too stiff, but I certainly do not. I think a seven-furlong race at that time of year will be well received. Sandown has a seven-furlong race on the Friday or Saturday prior to Royal Ascot, and that is always well supported."

But Clive Brittain, trainer of last year's winner, World Premier, has reservations about the initiative. "Seven furlongs at Ascot is very stiff and I think it could do more harm than good," he said.

The increase in distance to the Chesham, which carries listed status, is accompanied by a growth in prize-money. The race now has £35,000 added to stakes (from £32,000).

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: NONE STIRRED (12.30 Lingfield Park)

Next best: Darter (1.30 Lingfield Park)

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.30 Pete The Parson
1.00 Swivel
1.30 Betty's Boy
2.00 IMA DELIGHT (nap)
2.30 Nordansk
3.00 River Leven
3.30 Mister Morose

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.30 BLATANT OUTBURST (nap). 1.00 Goldwyn.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

GOING: HEAVY — SIS

12.30 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: £2,520: 2m 110yd) (12 runners)

1 135 BLATANT OUTBURST 147 (F) (Miss B Quibell) G Bravery 5-11-0 .... A Maguire —
2 0-0 BUCKLAND LAD 52 (Mrs R Hepburn) D Gressell 4-11-0 .... D Bridgwater 53
3 000 COUNTRY BOY 14 (Tanagon Racing II) J Bridger 4-11-0 .... L Harvey 70
4 00-0 CRAZY WEATHER 29 (R Brazier) Mrs P Sly 5-11-0 .... R Marley 58
5 0-5 KEY PLAYER 39 (W Packham) R Rowe 6-11-0 .... D O'Sullivan 58
6 0/U MITTENWALD 6 (J Burley) K Bailey 6-11-0 .... C Llewellyn —
7 24 MYSTIC ISLE 19 (BF) (Mrs P Furse) N Gaselee 5-11-0 .... R Dunwoody —
8 3 NONE STIRRED 20 (C Frewin) J Gifford 5-11-0 .... P Hide 95
9 3460/26 OLDHILL WOOD 7 (D Mullen) S Mellor 5-11-0 .... N Mann 89
10 23/33-0 PETE THE PARSON 24 (BF) (W Sturt) J Old 6-11-0 .... J Osborne [top rating]
11 24020 COMEDY HOUR 24 (N Rollo) P Murphy 4-10-9 .... E Murphy 72
12 0/00P0- FLEMINGS DELIGHT 233 (Mrs G Jessop) A Jessop 5-10-9 .... G Tormey (3) —

BETTING: 5-2 None Stirred, 7-2 Pete The Parson, 9-2 Mystic Isle, 5-1 Blatant Outburst, 8-1 Mittenwald, 12-1 Key Player, Oldhill Wood, 16-1 others

1994: BIMSEY 4-11-0 R Dunwoody (11-4 fav) R Akehurst 16 ran

FORM FOCUS

BLATANT OUTBURST 18l 5th of 13 to Charter in National Hunt Flat race at Worcester (2m, good to firm). KEY PLAYER 45l 5th to Flight Lieutenant in maiden hurdle at Fontwell (2m 3f, good to soft). MYSTIC ISLE 6¼l 4th to Frys No Fool in National Hunt Flat race at Towcester (2m, good to soft). NONE STIRRED 16l 3rd to Call Equiname in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). OLDHILL WOOD 8l 2nd to Nova Run in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m, good) penultimate start with CRAZY WEATHER 30l 7th. PETE THE PARSON 1¼l 3rd of 21 to Dancing Sam in maiden hurdle at Worcester (2m, good) final start last season. COMEDY HOUR 4l 2nd to Supreme Kellycarra in National Hunt Flat race at Exeter (2m 110yd, good to firm).
Selection: PETE THE PARSON

1.00 PLUM PUDDING JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(3-Y-O: £2,856: 2m 110yd) (20 runners)

1 0313 KILCORAN BAY 27 (V,D,G) (N Harris) I Balding 11-4 .... Mr A Balding (7) [top rating]
2 541 LAST SPIN 14 (D,G) (Mrs E Long) J Jenkins 10-13 .... J Osborne 81
3 ARDLEIGH PRINCE 177F (C Pennick) G L Moore 10-12 .... M Richards —
4 BON VOYAGE 188F (Mrs C Yeates) D Griscell 10-12 .... D Bridgwater —
5 BOWLES PATROL (Mrs D Upson) J Upson 10-12 .... C Maude —
6 CHELWORTH WOLF (R Eales) J Spearing 10-12 .... B Hogan (3) —
7 CHINA MAIL 167F (The Merlin Syndicate) K Bailey 10-12 .... R Dunwoody —
8 2 DARTER 20 (A Spence) R Akehurst 10-12 .... S Ryan (7) 97
9 24 GOLDWYN 14 (Horses For Courses Racing Club) Bob Jones 10-12 .... V Smith 83
10 MASON 96F (S Tindall) S Mellor 10-12 .... N Mann —
11 0 NESSUN DORO 5 (P Porter & Partners) S Mellor 10-12 .... M Perrett —
12 SHEPHERDS REST 152F (The Odd Dozen) S Mellor 10-12 .... C Llewellyn —
13 THE QUADS (J Duddy) J Ffitch-Heyes 10-12 .... B Fenton (5) —
14 4 UNITED FRONT 40 (T Beresford) R O'Sullivan 10-12 .... D O'Sullivan 77
15 352 AL CORNICHE 6F (D Bass) K Cunningham-Brown 10-7 .... A P McCoy 86
16 384 BROCKTON LIGHT 38 (Mrs D La Trobe) R Buckler 10-7 .... B Powell 58
17 FLATFORD PRINCESS 154F (C Pennick) G L Moore 10-7 .... M Attwater (7) —
18 MISS THE BEAT 108F (S Mellor) S Mellor 10-7 .... A Procter (3) —
19 ROSEVEAR 38F (Interiors of Ascot Partnership) S Mellor 10-7 .... Chris Webb (5) —
20 SWIVEL 98F (Mrs C Smith) D Nicholson 10-7 .... A Maguire —

BETTING: 9-4 Darter, 4-1 Kilcoran Bay, 9-2 Swivel, 6-1 Last Spin, 10-1 China Mail, 12-1 United Front, 14-1 Goldwyn, 16-1 Al Corniche, Miss The Beat, 20-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

KILCORAN BAY 15l 3rd of 15 to Our Kris in juvenile hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). LAST SPIN beat Battleship Bruce neck in juvenile hurdle at Fakenham (2m, good) with GOLDWYN (6lb better off) 4l 4th. DARTER 6l 2nd of 11 to Altimo Dancer in juvenile hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). GOLDWYN 1¼l 2nd of 8 to Watch My Lips in juvenile hurdle at Fakenham (2m, good) penultimate start with AL CORNICHE 2l 3rd. UNITED FRONT 11½l 4th of 13 to Court Nap in juvenile hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). AL CORNICHE 4l 2nd of 10 to Much Too High in juvenile hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, soft). BROCKTON LIGHT 30½l 4th of 14 to Vario in juvenile hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good) with AL CORNICHE 14l 5th. SWIVEL best flat effort 3l 2nd of 7 to To Opes in handicap at Yarmouth (1m 6f, good to firm).
Selection: DARTER (nap)

1.30 LOWNDES LAMBERT NOVICES CHASE
(£6,902: 3m) (8 runners)

1 113P-1 BETTY'S BOY 43 (F,G,S) (T Benfield and Mr W Brown) K Bailey 6-11-7 R Dunwoody [top rating]
2 000/1-2P SILVERFORT LAD 21 (B,BF,G) (A Wates) T Casey 6-11-4 .... J Osborne 98
3 0/P54-PP ALRON 21 (A Chadwick) C Weedon 8-11-0 .... Peter Hobbs —
4 006/U BADBURY PRINCE 8 (C Cowley) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 9-11-0 .... R Greene —
5 20/411/ BALASANI 552F (F,G,S) (M Smith) M Pipe 9-11-0 .... D Bridgwater —
6 00/2 LETS RUMBLE 21 (S) (H Parry) R Alner 6-11-0 .... A P McCoy 96
7 0/03121- ST MELLION FAIRWAY 244 (G,S) (St Mellion Estates) D Nicholson 6-11-0 A Maguire —
8 246342/ THE WEST'S ASLEEP 612 (R Spencer) J Ffitch-Heyes 10-11-0 .... B Fenton —

BETTING: 5-4 Betty's Boy, 3-1 Balasani, 4-1 St Mellion Fairway, 8-1 Lets Rumble, Silverfort Lad, 25-1 The West's Asleep, 33-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

BETTY'S BOY beat Chenymal 1¼l in grade II Aga Worcester Novices' Chase (3m 7f, good to firm). SILVERFORT LAD 6l 2nd to Bertone in novice chase at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good) penultimate start. BALASANI short-head 2nd, awarded race, to Avro Anson in grade I Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good) March 1994. LETS RUMBLE 2l 2nd to Libu Val in novice chase at Windsor (3m, good) with both SILVERFORT LAD and ALRON pulled up. ST MELLION FAIRWAY best effort beat My Rossini head in grade II Persian War Premier Novices' Hurdle at Chepstow (3m 4f 110yd, heavy). THE WEST'S ASLEEP head 2nd to Super Tactics in novice chase at Ballinrobe (2m 2f, yielding) April 1994.
Selection: BETTY'S BOY

2.00 HBLB MARES ONLY CHRISTMAS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,464: 2m 3f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 2PP203- SENDAI 266 (F,G,S) (Mrs M Tunnell) J Gifford 9-12-0 .... P Hide 95
2 11110-6 MARINER'S AIR 13 (G,S) (Mrs P Badger) J Spearing 8-11-11 .... D Gallagher 96
3 4/50P22- KNOCKAVERRY 222 (G,S) (Mrs W Morrell) M Wilkinson 7-10-13 R Dunwoody 91
4 3P-3160 JADIDH 14 (D,F,G,S) (D Hazzard) C Wildman 7-10-10 .... D Salter (5) 97
5 13022-0 DAKOTA GIRL 23 (G,S) (Dr J Leigh) G Balding 4-10-7 .... A P McCoy 90
6 013-442 TWICE A NIGHT 15 (F) (All in the Mind) D Nicholson 6-10-7 .... A Maguire 98
7 0/5515-3 IMA DELIGHT 24 (S) (Mrs P Sly) Mrs P Sly 8-10-4 .... R Marley [top rating]
8 3022-02 SOPHIE MAY 21 (S) (J Daniels) G L Moore 4-10-1 .... J Osborne 90
9 0/0020-4 MISS DISKIN 19 (M Forrester) R Buckler 6-10-0 .... B Powell 95
10 111121 PREENKA GIRL 9 (F,G,S) (M Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 6-10-0 (6ex) D Bridgwater 97

Long handicap: Miss Diskin 9-8, Preenka Girl 9-8

BETTING: 7-2 Twice A Night, 4-1 Preenka Girl, 5-1 Sendai, 6-1 Ima Delight, 8-1 Sophie May, Mariner's Air, 10-1 Knockaverry, 12-1 others

1994: BADRAKHANI 8-10-5 R Dunwoody (6-1) C Nash 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

MARINER'S AIR best effort beat Vasiliev 6l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good) penultimate start last season. KNOCKAVERRY 1l 2nd of 17 to Henry Cone in handicap hurdle at Worcester (3m, good). JADIDH best recent effort beat Hold Your Ranks head in 15-runner handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, soft). TWICE A NIGHT head 2nd of 9 to Plunder Bay in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). IMA DELIGHT 27½l 3rd of 12 to Time For Flutter in handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, soft). SOPHIE MAY 5l 2nd of 7 to Zajira in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft). MISS DISKIN 21½l 4th of 15 to Buckhouse Boy in novice hurdle at Towcester (3m 5f, good to soft). PREENKA GIRL beat Envopakleada 1¾l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, good).
Selection: PREENKA GIRL

2.30 BRANDY BUTTER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,262: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

1 121/13/ EL VOLADOR 12F (D,F,S) (A Pearce) R O'Sullivan 8-12-0 .... A Procter —
2 014P-45 NORTHERN VILLAGE 30 (C,F,G) (Mrs H Chakko) S Dow 8-11-13 R Elkins (7) [top rating]
3 222121 MOST EQUAL 21 (D,F,G,S) (H Kirpalani) M Pipe 5-11-12 .... D Burrows (4) 95
4 1/5 JULIASDARKINVADER 62 (G) (A Moore) A Moore 5-11-12 .... M Batchelor (7) 80
5 1222-33 NORDANSK 33 (D,BF,F,S) (D Knight) M Madgwick 6-11-10 .... B Fenton 90
6 5/213-R ELBURG 23 (V,G) (Mrs A Gamble) R Hoad 5-11-8 .... S Curran 84
7 10- AJDAR 231F (D,G) (Mrs S Catt) Miss G Kelleway 4-11-1 .... L Reynolds (4) 85
8 1056/5P- NELTEGRITY 397 (D,S) (T Croxson) Mrs P Sly 6-10-11 .... P McLoughlin —
9 6U00-50 TICKERTY'S GIFT 9 (V,BF) (K Higson) G L Moore 5-10-10 .... M Attwater (4) 93
10 1-60062 NEVEROLD 7 (D,BF,S) (T Segrue) M Ahern 5-10-0 .... M Kelly (4) 97
11 00-0PPF THE BIZZO 16 (J Parvert) J Parvert 4-10-0 .... G Hogan —

Long handicap: Neverold 9-10, The Bizzo 8-1

BETTING: 5-2 Most Equal, 3-1 Nordansk, 6-1 Northern Village, 8-1 El Volador, Elburg, Ajdar, 10-1 Juliasdarkinvader, 16-1 others

1994: NAMASTE 6-11-10 Chris Webb (5-4 fav) R Hoad 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

EL VOLADOR best effort beat Monday Club 8l in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to firm) October 1993. MOST EQUAL beat Salisong 4l in 10-runner conditional jockeys handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). NORDANSK 15½l 3rd of 8 to Callbale in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to firm). ELBURG best effort beat Washington Heights 1½l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, good). AJDAR beat Call Me Albi ½l in 8-runner juvenile hurdle at Fakenham (2m, good) debut last season. NEVEROLD 7l 2nd of 11 to Hawthorne Glen in selling handicap hurdle at Towcester (3m, soft).
Selection: NEVEROLD

3.00 PORT & STILTON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,496: 2m) (8 runners)

1 121453- MAJOR'S LAW 229 (G,S) (B Racing) J White 6-12-0 .... P McLoughlin —
2 P0-6431 FIERCE 7 (D,F,G,S) (P Piper) J Jenkins 7-12-0 (6ex) .... J Osborne 92
3 2F2/554- STAGE PLAYER 290 (F,G) (Miss C Carne) Miss C Caroe 9-11-13 .... D Leahy 97
4 F5-36F4 AEDEAN 15 (S) (M Orpen-Palmer) G Enright 6-11-5 .... J R Kavanagh [top rating]
5 400-12U RIVER LEVEN 6 (B,G,S) (R Brideworth) D Gandolfo 6-11-3 .... R Dunwoody —
6 5U6/F3-3 POLICEMANS PRIDE 39 (R Dove) M Madgwick 6-10-13 .... B Fenton (5) 95
7 64F546- JIMMY THE JACKDAW 386 (V) (P Butler) P Butler 8-10-4 .... G Hogan (3) 88
8 P/P-355 PRECIOUS WONDER 8 (D Butler) P Butler 6-10-0 .... B Powell 85

Long handicap: Precious Wonder 9-7.

BETTING: 2-1 River Leven, 7-2 Fierce, 5-1 Major's Law, 11-2 Aedean, 6-1 Stage Player, 10-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

MAJOR'S LAW neck and 6l 3rd of 7 to Meditator in claiming hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, firm). FIERCE beat Early Drinker 1½l in novice chase at Southwell (2m, good). AEDEAN best effort 12l 2nd of 6 to Leotard in novice chase at Kempton (2m, good to soft) with POLICEMANS PRIDE a faller at 3rd. RIVER LEVEN 2l 2nd of 10 to Hightown Cavalier in conditional jockeys novice handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good to soft). POLICEMANS PRIDE 26¼l 3rd of 7 to Candle King in novice chase at Fontwell (2m 3f, good to soft). PRECIOUS WONDER 15½l 5th of 7 to Le Chat Noir in conditional jockeys handicap chase at Folkestone (2m, good).
Selection: FIERCE

3.30 HOLLY & IVY MAIDEN OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,371: 2m 110yd) (19 runners)

1 B FIFTY TWO (Mrs C Zetter-Wells) L Wells 4-11-4 .... Peter Hobbs —
2 4 CHARLIE PARROT 47 (Mrs A Ferrant) M Pipe 5-11-4 .... D Bridgwater —
3 0 EQUESTRIANISM 16 (J Pearce) J Pearce 4-11-4 .... J McLaughlin —
4 FERRERS (J Burt) Mrs P Sly 4-11-4 .... R Marley —
5 FLYING FIDDLER (M Roberts) M Roberts 4-11-4 .... G Hogan (3) —
6 8 FLYING GUNNER 43 (R Green) D Nicholson 4-11-4 .... DOUBTFUL
7 00- FRAZER NASH 250 (Mrs R Lagoon) A Jones 4-11-4 .... S Curran (3) —
8 MANKIND (J Fenton) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-4 .... C Llewellyn —
9 MASTER HOPEFULL (M Padfield) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 6-11-4 .... R Greene —
10 2 MISTER MOROSE 55 (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 .... D Walsh (5) —
11 0 MY SON TOM 82 (Prestige Racing Management Ltd) J Long 6-11-4 B Fenton (5) —
12 6 PHAR FROM FUNNY 7 (Mrs E Haycock) G Balding 4-11-4 .... A P McCoy —
13 STRONG TEL (T Neill) M Pipe 5-11-4 .... J Lower —
14 0 SUTHERLAND MOSS 50 (Mrs C Smith) D Nicholson 4-11-4 .... A Maguire —
15 60 DEARDS SMASHER 14 (Mrs G Lett) N Smith 6-10-13 .... Mr M Rodda —
16 0- ELL GEE 299 (Mrs P Townsley) Mrs P Townsley 5-10-13 .... Miss Lucy Townsley —
17 MILLIES PRINCESS (L Fuller) Miss B Sanders 4-10-13 .... S Ryan (7) —
18 RISING'S LASS (R O'Sullivan) R O'Sullivan 5-10-13 .... D O'Sullivan —
19 THE SMILING GIRL (P Jones) P Jones 5-10-13 .... D Leahy —

BETTING: 3-1 Mister Morose, 4-1 Charlie Parrot, 5-1 Strong Tel, Sutherland Moss, 7-1 Mankind, 10-1 Master Hopefull, 12-1 Rising's Lass, 16-1 others

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

CHARLIE PARROT 4¾l 4th of 10 to Knightsbridge Scot in National Hunt Flat race at Wincanton (2m, good to firm). MISTER MOROSE neck 2nd of 18 to Riverdale Boy in National Hunt Flat race at Bangor (2m 1f, good). PHAR FROM FUNNY 29l 6th to Boss's Bank in National Hunt Flat race at Towcester (2m, soft). SUTHERLAND MOSS 14l 7th of 16 to Castle Sweep in National Hunt Flat race at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to soft). DEARDS SMASHER 37l 8th of 13 to St Mellion Drive in National Hunt Flat race at Nottingham (2m, good to soft).
Selection: MISTER MOROSE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
C Weedon	8	19	42.1	J Osborne	11	37	29.7
J Spearing	8	20	40.0	R Dunwoody	12	41	29.3
J Old	7	18	38.9	D Bridgwater	7	25	28.0
R Akehurst	15	40	37.5	R Greene	4	18	22.2
Miss B Sanders	21	65	32.3	A Maguire	20	94	21.3
S Dow	16	54	29.6	Peter Hobbs	8	40	20.0

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ludlow

Going: good

12.45 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, KREEF (G Crone, 10-1); 2, Barryben (R Massey, 5-2 fav); 3, Dragonmist (S Curran, 16-1); 4, Damcada (D Leahy, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Commanchero (pu), 10 Its Grand, 12 Precious Juno (6th), 14 Boogie Bopper, Forcing Two, Hong Kong Designer, 16 Penarth, 20 Quick Decision, 25 Stylish Blake (pu), 66 Happy Deal (pu), Horsetrader, Radar Knight (5th). 16 ran. Nk, 15l, 1¾l, 2l, 1¾l. R Curtis at Epsom. Tote: £8.80; £1.80, £1.70, £1.10, £3.90. DF: £12.70. Trio: £83.30. CSF: £31.87. Tricast: £366.99. Bought in 5,000gns.

1.15 (3m ch) 1, NICKLUP (A Thornton, 3-1); 2, Alice Smith (W McFarland, 7-2); 3, Victory Anthem (B Fenton, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 13-8 fav Mutual Trust (ur), 13-2 Petty Bridge (pu), 12 Opal's Tenspot (4th), 33 Foxgrove (pu). 7 ran. NR: Coasting. Nk, 5l, 5l. T Forster at Wantage. Tote: £3.80; £1.30, £1.90. DF: £10.80. CSF: £13.69. Tricast: £84.47.

1.45 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, CAILIN GLAS (D Finnegan, 9-2); 2, Goldenswift (A P McCoy, 7-4 fav); 3, Koo's Promise (T Dascombe, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Menelave (4th), 11 Choice Bar (5th), 12 Quinag, Stormy Petrel, 33 Ceridwen, 100 Hot Dog (pu), Jaunty June, Kelly's Fiddle (pu), Miniture Melody (6th), Musical Vocation. 13 ran. 2l, 25l, ¾l, 20l, 2½l. N Chance at Lambourn. Tote: £7.20; £2.20, £1.50, £3.00. DF: £7.00. Trio: £14.90. CSF: £11.85.

2.15 (2m ch) 1, HAVE A NIGHTCAP (J F Titley, 14-1); 2, The Caumrue (A P McCoy, 6-4 fav); 3, Reve En Rose (J R Kavanagh, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 8 Marabouttheouse (4th), 10 Royal Print, 14 Pusey Street Boy (pu), Sigma Run (f), Where's Willie (5th), 20 Dante's Delight, 33 Hugh Daniels (pu), 50 Al Skeet (pu), 66 Boro Hill (6th), Most Interesting, Oliver Duckett (pu). 14 ran. 1¾l, 8l, 14l, nk, 3½l. N Littmoden at Wolverhampton. Tote: £22.80; £4.00, £1.80, £2.30. DF: £17.40. Trio: £28.90. CSF: £32.65.

2.45 (2m 4f ch) 1, MINE'S AN ACE (R Greene, 7-2); 2, Powder Boy (R Dunwoody, 9-1); 3, Golden Madjambo (J Lodder, 2-1 fav). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Eez-Away (6th), 7 Rupples (5th), 8 Lucky Again (ur), 10 Master Eryl (pu), 33 Monks Jay (4th). 8 ran. NR: Ballad Ruler. 2½l, 2½l, 1¾l, 12l, 9l. Mrs J Renfree-Barons at Stockbridge. Tote: £5.20; £2.10, £1.90, £1.20. DF: £21.90. Trio: £29.70. CSF: £31.14. Tricast: £71.15.

3.15 (2m hdle) 1, YOUR RISK (J Osborne, 6-1); 2, Royal Silver (A P McCoy, 20-1); 3, Silver Shred (D Bridgwater, 6-5 fav). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Succotash (pu), 13-2 Wynberg, 14 Jimmy-Jade (4th), 16 Alpha Leather, Diviner, 20 Feldspar (6th), 33 Hydemilla (5th), 50 Boolavogue, 66 Milo Boy, 100 Colwall, Cool Mandy. 14 ran. 1¾l, ¾l, 8l, 5l, 15l. S Christian at Kinnersley. Tote: £7.70; £1.50, £4.50, £1.10. DF: £104.50. Trio: £26.60. CSF: £107.38.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £20,968.78 carried forward to Uttoxeter today).
Placepot: £7.30. Quadpot: £3.20.

Hexham

Going: good (good to soft in places)

12.30 (2m hdle) 1, DUKE OF PERTH (P Carberry, 100-30 fav); 2, Lord Rullah (A S Smith, 10-1); 3, Sayraf Dancer (M Foster, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Troy's Dream, 6 Princess Maxine (5th), Top Tatt (pu), 8 General Muck, Shrewd Thought (4th), 16 Anastasia Windsor, Cheap Knight (pu), 20 Apollo's Daughter (6th), 25 School Of Science. 12 ran. NR: Lothian Commodore, Sunderland Echo. 5l, 2l, 4l, 2½l, ¾l. J Johnson at Crook. Tote: £2.40; £1.30, £8.30, £1.30. DF: £23.50. Trio: £98.50. CSF: £37.79.

1.00 (3m hdle) 1, CHOPWELL CURTAINS (L Wyer, 4-11 fav); 2, Peep O Day (O Pears, 10-1); 3, Cherry Stone (T Reed, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Cornkilty, Sierra Madrona (6th), 16 German Legend (5th), Grand Entry, 20 Avowhat, 25 Beckley Fountain, 33 Just For Me (pu), Kenmare River, Political Missile (pu), 50 Another Girl (pu), Marnica (4th), Polar Gale (pu), Random King (pu), Robera. 17 ran. NR: Bold Account, Carley Lad, Dillons Bridge, Kerak, Rascally. 2½l, 13l, 3l, 2½l, 2½l. M H Easterby at Malton. Tote: £1.40; £1.90, £2.00, £6.20. DF: £7.90. Trio: £27.10. CSF: £7.88.

1.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, BEAUCHAMP GRACE (Mr K Whelan, 8-1); 2, Chief Raider (A S Smith, 7-1); 3, Solba (B Storey, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 10-11 fav Earlymorning Light (4th), 8 Scilly Cay (f), 9 Moreof A Gunner (pu), 12 Mr Fudge (f), 20 Chill Wind (pu), Gortnamona (pu), Master Of Troy (5th), 33 Sagaro Belle (6th), 100 Excise Man (pu). 12 ran. NR: Choisty, Commandeer, Deviry. 2½l, nk, 11l, 20l, dist. Mrs S Bramall at Thirsk. Tote: £10.50; £2.90, £2.90, £1.50. DF: £30.60. Trio: £173.00. CSF: £64.35.

2.00 (3m hdle) 1, NEW CHARGES (B Grattan, 5-1); 2, Kiltochside Lad (E Husband, 10-1); 3, Sand King (F Leahy, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Dashmar (6th), 4 Aurora Lad, 11-2 The Laughing Lord (4th), 6 High Penhowe, 8 Tony's Feelings (5th), 12 Abbey Lamp (su), 14 Haughton Lad, 20 Rare Paddy, Thersis, 25 Ultrakay (pu). 13 ran. NR: Circle Boy. Goldmire. 4l, 3l, 1l, 20l, 1¾l. P Beaumont at Brandsby. Tote: £6.30; £1.40, £3.20, £4.20. DF: £36.60. Trio: £154.80. CSF: £58.31. Tricast: £894.84. No bid.

2.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, EASBY JOKER (P Niven, 11-10 fav); 2, Lupy Minstrel (D Parker, 10-1); 3, Tudor Fellow (A S Smith, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Majic Rain (pu), 10 Gala Water (6th), Inconclusive (4th), 16 Gunmetal Boy, 50 Potato Man (5th). 8 ran. NR: Golden Fiddle, Irish Gent, Jendee, Marchwood, Ninfa. 3l, 5l, 13l, 7l, 5l. S Kettlewell at Middleham. Tote: £2.10; £1.50, £1.20, £2.10. DF: £8.20. Trio: £47.60. CSF: £13.11. Tricast: £37.83.

3.00 (2m hdle) 1, RACHAEL'S OWEN (L Wyer, 5-4 fav); 2, Eriny (M Dwyer, 7-2); 3, Scarba (R Davis, 5-2). ALSO RAN: 10 Mrs Jawleyford (pu), 14 Saskia's Hero (f). 5 ran. NR: Another Fountain, Innocent George. 1l, 1l. T Dyer at Invergowrie. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £2.10. DF: £2.40. CSF: £5.69.

3.30 (2m flat) 1, RIVER NITH (F Perratt, 20-1); 2, Uk Hygiene (R Burns, 12-1); 3, Tullymurry Toff (M Dwyer, 7-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 2 The Stitcher (4th), 6 Bowlands Country, 12 Nautilus The Third (6th), 14 Meesons Express, 20 Rosie, 25 Chain Line, 33 Diddy Rymer, My Missile, Silver Penny (5th), Tartan Mix. 13 ran. NR: Corbleu. 6l, sh hd, ¾l, 1½l, 3l. L Lungo at Carrutherstown. Tote: £28.20; £10.30, £5.70, £1.60. DF: £91.40. Trio: £109.60. CSF: £224.99.

Placepot: £48.40. Quadpot: £17.00

Kelso falls to frost as weather threatens holiday meetings

THE meeting at Kelso today became the latest victim of the weather when it was called off yesterday because of frost. But hopes are high that Lingfield and Uttoxeter will survive.

After a 3.30 inspection of the Kelso track, Johnny Fenwick-Clennell, the clerk of the course, said: "It was frozen solid. Believe it or not, we had no problem at seven o'clock this morning, but things have got worse through the day.

"The forecast is for minus four to minus six degrees and with racing scheduled to start at 12.20 we have no chance of going ahead."

Seven full meetings have now been lost to the weather this National Hunt season.

Uttoxeter clerk of the course David McAllister is "cautiously optimistic" that today's meeting will go ahead. "We had half an inch of rain last night and the forecast is a mixed bag," he said.

Prospects look brighter at Lingfield. "We have no problems at the moment," a course spokeswoman said. "The forecast is for snow tomorrow morning but it isn't cold enough for snow at the moment and we have got our fingers crossed."

The cold snap is already threatening next week's fixtures. Ayr, which is due to race on Boxing Day, and Edinburgh, which has a meeting planned for the following day, were both frozen yesterday.

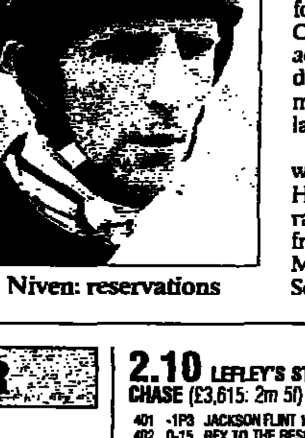
Ayr's manager Mark Kershaw said: "We have had quite a lot of frost and look set for a severe frost tonight. No inspections are arranged yet but we will be making plans as we get nearer the weekend."

The ground is also frozen in places at Carlisle, where they are due to race next Thursday.

Frost jeopardised yesterday's meeting at Hexham, which was given the go-ahead just 30 minutes before the first race despite protests from some trainers and jockeys.

After walking the course officials passed the course fit for racing, although one hurdle and one fence were omitted. But a total of 20 horses were withdrawn, and jockey Peter Niven said: "The ground is frozen and I don't think it's safe at all."

Ironically, Niven went on to partner Steve Kettlewell's Easby Joker to a comfortable success in the Santa Claus Handicap Chase.



Niven: reservations

"Like everyone else I was concerned about the ground and went to withdraw the horse 35 minutes before the race," Kettlewell said. "But I decided to have another look and ran across to the open ditch. It seemed all right on the outside and I thought it was worth letting him run."

Beauchamp Grace, favourite for the Triumph Hurdle two years ago, won for the first time over fences when fending off Chief Raider in the Roast Turkey Novices' Chase.

After moving into second down the back straight the 11-10 on favourite, Earlymorning Light, faded tamely into fourth. Beauchamp Grace, a big-money purchase out of David Nicholson's yard, is a half-sister to group Flat race winner Beauchamp Hero.

"This will have increased her value and she deserved this as she was unlucky several times last season," Joe O'Gorman, assistant to trainer Sue Bramall, said.

Lorcan Wyer suffered mixed fortunes. He rode a double on Chopwell Curtains and Rachael's Own, but received a two-day ban (December 29-30) for misuse of the whip on the latter.

Jockey Stephen Haworth was taken to the Dryburn Hospital in Durham for X-rays to his shoulder after a fall from Abbey Lamp in the Mistletoe Conditional Jockeys' Selling Handicap Hurdle.

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

12.40 Three Philosophers. 1.10 Tamandu. 1.40 Albert Blake. 2.10 Jackson Flint. 2.40 Elflaa. 3.10 Honest Word. 3.40 Children's Choice.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.40 THORNTON GATE.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) — SIS

12.40 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: £2,589: 2m 4f 110yd) (15 runners)

101 44-1 HIGH LEARIE 20 (S) O Sherwood 5-11-10 .... Mr A Harvey 94
102 3-1U THREE PHILOSOPHERS 22 (BF,G) T Forster 6-11-5 .... J Railton 92
103 0-26 AH THERE YOU ARE 33 (BF) K Bailey 6-11-0 .... W McFarland —
104 CAMDEN WAY M Wilkinson 5-11-0 .... G Bradley —
105 0-0 DANCING RANGER 24 Miss S Wilton 4-11-0 .... T Eley —
106 0-0 HARRY BOY 14 Mrs J Pitman 6-11-0 .... W Marston —
107 0P MONSIEUR BROOKS 21 R Stronge 5-11-0 .... R Stronge —
108 MOUNTAIN PATH N Henderson 5-11-0 .... M A Fitzgerald —
109 00-3 RELUCKINO 33 C Broad 5-11-0 .... R Farrant 63
110 42 STEEL MOSS 29 C Barwell 8-11-0 .... B Clifford —
111 THE GO AHEAD T Forster 5-11-0 .... A Thornton —
112 2 TRAIL BOSS 20 Miss H Knight 4-11-0 .... J F Titley [top rating]
113 0 VEEAAR 17 A Barrow 4-11-0 .... S Burrough —
114 4 WHO AM I 14 R Alner 5-11-0 .... R Johnson (3) 87
115 0-P LADY HIGH SHERIFF 24 T Forster 5-10-9 .... T Jenks —

3-1 High Learie, 4-1 Three Philosophers, 5-1 Trail Boss, 7-1 Ah There You Are, Who Am I, 8-1 Mountain Path, 10-1 Harry Boy, 12-1 others.

1.10 BURTON ALBION FOOTBALL CLUB MARES ONLY NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (1,886: 2m) (15)

201 2104 SAXON MAGIC 42 (F,S) J Bennett 5-11-6 Sophie Mitchell (5) 89
202 0-16 TAMANDU 20 (D,G) C James 5-11-6 .... I Lawrence 92
203 6-50 ALBEIT 22 R Evans 5-11-0 .... Mr P Scott (7) 63
204 0 CELTIC CEILIDH 15 Mrs M Reveley 4-11-0 .... R Hodge —
205 00-0 CHOWPOR 24 A Carroll 4-11-0 .... D Bentley [top rating]
206 3532 ELUSIVE STAR 41 J White 5-11-0 .... M A Fitzgerald 90
207 HILL FARM KATIE 9F W Brisbourne 4-11-0 .... R Massey (5) —
208 IT'S SO EASY 7F A James 4-11-0 .... S McNeill —
209 LEGATEE 12F A Streeter 4-11-0 .... T Eley —
210 00- RIO DANCER 266 H Oliver 6-11-0 .... Jacqui Oliver 78
211 RUBY PLUS 553F G Oldroyd 4-11-0 .... P Midgley (3) —
212 4UF6 SABEEL 6 (B) T George 5-11-0 .... T Jenks 88
213 00- SCOTTISH WEDDING 385 W Clay 5-11-0 .... Guy Lewis (3) —
214 000 SHADOW OF STEEL 19 R Stronge 5-11-0 .... R Stronge —
215 0/0- SISTER ELLY 437 T Wall 5-11-0 .... Gary Lyons —

3-1 Elusive Star, 9-2 Hill Farm Katie, 5-1 Saxon Magic, 6-1 Tamandu, 7-1 Celtic Ceilidh, 8-1 Chowpor, 10-1 Legatee, 12-1 others

1.40 JAYMANS ESTATE AGENCY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,465: 3m 2f) (8)

301 2521 LORD GYLLENE S Brookshaw 7-12-0 .... J Railton —
302 413F THE BUD CLUB 14 (B,CD,F,G) K Bailey 7-11-10 W McFarland [top rating]
303 451- ALBERT BLAKE 208 (D,G,S) T Kinsey 8-11-2 .... M Sharratt 86
304 /4F FRENCH MYLE 21 C Mann 7-10-1 .... W Marston —
305 -FP0 YES WE ARE 8 (B) A Barrow 9-10-0 .... S Burrough 80
306 35-P WOODLANDS POWER 7 P Pritchard 7-10-0 .... R Davis 84
307 5-P3 MISTER HOCHBERG 15 (V,F,S) Mrs V Ward 9-10-0 .... T Eley 88
308 F-62 DANTES SUN 27 (G) T Forster 6-10-0 .... A Thornton 97

5-4 The Bud Club, 9-4 Lord Gyllene, 4-1 Albert Blake, 6-1 Dantes Sun, 14-1 Mister Hochberg, 25-1 French Myle, 33-1 others

2.10 LEFLEY'S STAFFORDSHIRE HOG NOVICES CHASE (£3,615: 2m 5f) (9)

401 -1P3 JACKSON FLINT 15 (F) T Thomson Jones 7-11-6 M A Fitzgerald 97
402 0-15 REX TO THE RESCUE 36 (F,G) R Alner 7-11-6 .... S McNeill [top rating]
403 PP- AT IT AGAIN 253 W McKenzie-Coles 6-11-0 .... W McFarland —
404 0-3F BARTON SANTA 5 (S) S Brookshaw 6-11-0 .... J Railton —
405 2P-F GOING AROUND 21 (G,S) K Bailey 7-11-0 .... W McFarland —
406 0-2 OVER THE CORRIB 40 J Curtis 5-11-0 .... A S Smith 81
407 5-3U SEYMOUR SPY 8 Mrs A Hewitt 6-11-0 .... G Bradley 64
408 THE BRUSH MAN Miss J Bower 6-11-0 .... S Taylor (7) —
409 31-3 POPPEA 35 (F) T Forster 6-10-9 .... W Marston —

7-4 Rex To The Rescue, 3-1 Jackson Flint, 9-2 Poppea, 6-1 Barton Santa, 8-1 Going Around, Over The Corrib, 33-1 Seymour Spy, 50-1 others.

2.40 DOUBLE TWO SHIRTS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,355: 2m) (10)

501 2232 TEEN JAY 38 (D,F,G,S) R Stronge 5-12-0 .... R Stronge 94
502 1211 THORNTON GATE 12 (D,F,G,S) M H Easterby 6-11-11 L Wyer [top rating]
503 6213 ELFLAA 16 (CD,BF,F) N Henderson 4-11-5 .... M A Fitzgerald 98
504 5422 TEJANO GOLD 35 (D,G,S) P Bradley 5-11-4 .... A Thornton 96
505 1-03 SUIVEZ 14 (D,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 5-11-0 R Johnson (3) 97
506 4-41 TENNEIN 21 (D,S) T Forster 4-10-13 .... W Marston 90
507 13-0 SYLVAN SABRE 47 (CD,F,G) K Morgan 6-10-12 .... A S Smith 96
508 -405 SAINT CIEL 19 (CD,G,S) F Jordan 7-10-9 .... J Lodder 98
509 42-4 GOLDINGO 183 (D,S) G Price 8-10-4 .... Guy Lewis (3) 98
510 000- CHIAROSCURO 253 (S) C Price 9-10-0 .... R Bellamy —

2-1 Thornton Gate, 9-2 Tennein, 5-1 Elflaa, 11-2 Teen Jay, 6-1 Tejano Gold, 7-1 Saint Ciel, 8-1 Suivez, 20-1 others.

3.10 ST MODWEN CHASE
(Limited handicap: £4,410: 2m) (5)

601 60-2 BARNA BOY 24 (G,S) N Henderson 7-11-7 .... M A Fitzgerald 94
602 2-3F HONEST WORD 13 (C,D,F,G,S) S Brookshaw 10-11-1 J Railton [top rating]
603 55-3 ONE FOR THE POT 23 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs A Naughton 10-10-12 .... T Jenks 96
604 5/4- SURE METAL 414 (C,D,F,G,S) D McCain 12-10-9 .... D McCain —
605 4114 RODEO STAR 13 (B,D,F,G,S) N Tinkler 9-10-7 .... G Bradley 96

6-4 Rodeo Star, 2-1 Honest Word, 5-2 Barna Boy, 6-1 One For The Pot, 25-1 Sure Metal.

3.40 ALAN POVEY SIGNS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,358: 2m) (10)

1 S000 CITIZEN BAND 139 E Alston 7-11-10 .... L Wyer —
2 -362 ROBERO 16 (V,BF) Mrs J Pitman 4-11-8 .... W Marston 97
3 0601 TANSEEQ 6 (D,F) M Meagher 4-11-6 (6ex) .... D Byrne 97
4 6-P4 BIETSCHHORN BARD 21 D Gandolfo 5-11-4 .... R Farrant 98
5 P-21 BUCKLEY BOYS 9F (G) A Bailey 4-11-0 .... T Kent [top rating]
6 P4-0 CHILDREN'S CHOICE 24 P McBride 4-10-9 .... P Holley 96
7 /06 MASTER MURPHY 15 C Broad 6-10-0 .... S McNeill 98
8 /FF- PRIDEWOOD PICKER 236 R Price 8-10-0 .... R Johnson (3) —
9 300P CAPTAIN STOCKFORD 33 P Wegmann 8-10-0 .... Gary Lyons —
10 /56 IRISH GROOM 13 A Streeter 8-10-0 .... T Eley 81

5-2 Bietschhorn Bard, 11-4 Robero, 3-1 Tanseeq, 7-2 Buckley Boys, 12-1 Master Murphy, Citizen Band, 14-1 Irish Groom, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Mann, 5 winners from 14 runners, 35.7%; N Henderson, 7 from 23, 30.4%; O Sherwood, 16 from 54, 29.6%; S Brookshaw, 5 from 18, 27.8%; K Bailey, 24 from 87, 27.6%.

JOCKEYS: S McNeill, 11 winners from 49 rides, 22.4%; G Bradley, 8 from 38, 21.1%; A S Smith, 5 from 25, 20%; J Railton, 8 from 56, 14.3%; R Johnson, 4 from 28, 14.3%; D Byrne, 3 from 22, 13.6%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 1.30 Silverfort Lad, 2.30 Elburg. Uttoxeter: 1.40 Yes We Are.

O'Neill fined £400 by Hexham stewards

JONJO O'NEILL, the trainer, was fined £400 and jockey Alan Roche suspended for seven days (December 29-30 and January 1-5 inclusive) for schooling and conditioning Princess Maxine in public at Hexham yesterday. The mare stayed on from the rear to finish fifth in the Northern Electric Charity Challenge Series Novices' Hurdle.

Roche told the stewards that his instructions had been to drop the mare out in the early stages to ensure that she got the trip. O'Neill said he was satisfied with Roche's riding, adding that Princess Maxine had been difficult to train because of leg trouble and that she had been blowing hard after the race.

"I'm very disappointed. I think this must be a joke," O'Neill said. "It looked bad on the film but the horse wasn't sure to stay and we were trying to get the trip. It was a bad race and the owner backed the horse."

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'Exclusive club' must be broken up

Bacher has vision of cricket as a truly global game

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PIETERMARITZBURG

THE cosy, closed circle of international cricket is facing a challenge from within. Ali Bacher, directing his vision outside the new South Africa he helped to create, has a long-term plan to double the number of Test-playing nations and create genuinely global competition. If sense prevails, the International Cricket Council (ICC) will endorse his ideas and persuade him to put them into practice.

Bacher is the most dynamic, innovative administrator in world cricket. His daily routine, beginning with a 6am jog and entailing a bewildering number of telephone calls and meetings, is exhausting even to contemplate.

He says he does not seek an international role because there is more work for him to do within South Africa. But, if cricket wants to maintain and improve its position in the sport and entertainment market, it needs Bacher as the driving force.

This week, he outlined to *The Times* the radical proposal that he intends to pursue at ICC level, addressing the problem of the game's confinements at top level by the creation of an extensive, full-time development staff. "The question is whether you can change the history of the game that has been determined and created by only a few countries," he said. "People will say you can't, but I don't believe that, nor will I accept it. The game must expand.

"International cricket revolves around only six countries. It is far too limited. The focus is on these six all the time and all that is happening is that they are playing each other more and more regularly. This is not spreading the gospel of cricket, it is establishing an exclusive club.

"David Richards [the ICC chief executive] is a very able man and he is right to talk of an ambition for a global cricket scene. That is the ultimate. But the priority, which must be in the interests of all, is for the ICC to assist in further advancing the game in Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and even New Zealand. Although they are full Test nations, they are behind the other six.

"We then need to identify which of the associate-member countries, if given a big push by the ICC, can reach the level required to play Test cricket. And they must be helped all the way. Can you imagine the benefit to the game, in so many ways, if there were, say, 16 countries playing Test cricket within ten years?

"It would then be feasible to have a Test league, possibly in two divisions and with the fixtures being organised centrally. This would establish,



Bacher: most dynamic and innovative administrator

unarguably, who is the strongest side in the world at any point, creating new interest and new marketing potential quite beyond us at the moment."

Bacher nominated Kenya and Bangladesh as two countries with the scope to respond to his call. "Kenya made a three-week tour to South Africa in September. I went to watch them and felt they had five players in their side with the potential to become Test cricketers.

"In the past, they have relied on their Asian population, but black Africans are now playing the game widely. They have the culture to progress in the game, and I believe the same applies to Bangladesh.

"What we need is a master plan. The ICC should set targets and then vigorously drive the plan to its conclusion.

"It might take 20 years, that doesn't matter, but I would genuinely hope that, within five years of installing such a plan, we could have three more Test-playing countries."

Bacher will put his proposals to the ICC next summer and they would do well to listen for he has thought them through with logic. "The development team I envisage would not only involve cricket coaches, it would need a business plan," he said.

"A number of highly-qualified professional people are required to assist in the identified countries and this would naturally need substantial funding. But the money can readily be made available. The World Cup profits now are huge and a proportion ought to be set aside.

"Then, maybe half a per cent of Test revenue attracted by those top six countries should be channelled into development, because ultimately it is in the interests of those countries as much as anyone else."

Bacher suggested that A-team tours, which at the moment are kept within the Test-playing clique, should venture farther afield, under direction from the ICC, and that the Under-19 World Cup, next due to be staged in South Africa in 1998, should embrace 16 countries.

"We pay lip service to the associate members. Their cricket is undeveloped and nothing tangible is being achieved to advance it," he said.

Bacher is keen to stress that he is in no way criticising either Richards or the present ICC chairman, Clyde Walcott, of whom he is "a terrific admirer". Walcott, who has 18 months of his appointment to run, has, according to Bacher, "brought east and west closer together than they have ever been and established the subcontinent as important players in world cricket, as they ought to be".

But Richards, alone in his ivory tower at Lord's, and Walcott, in his roving role of diplomacy, form an utterly inadequate team to represent cricket in the competitive field of international sport. Bacher knows it. What is more, he is the man to do something about it, if only he can be persuaded.



Nic Pothas hits Richard Illingworth for six on his way to 141 not out in Pietermaritzburg yesterday. Report, page 48

England A forfeit unbeaten record

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ENGLAND A surrendered their unbeaten record in Shekhupura yesterday when they were beaten by 133 runs by Pakistan A in the third one-day international, which was also the final game of what has been a highly successful tour.

Sajid Shah, a fast bowler, took six for 43 as England A were dismissed for 115 in reply to the Pakistan side's 40-over score of 248 for five. Yet defeat removed only a little of the gloss from a tour in which the international series was won 1-0 and the one-day series 2-1.

Despite being down to 11 fit players, after an injury to Jason Pooley — the cricket manager, John Emburey, was on duty as twelfth man — the England team had been optimistic of success. But, for once, the bowlers did not rise to the challenge. There was a glimmer of hope when Ed Giddins reduced the home side to 53 for two, but the third-wicket pair, Shakil Ahmed (69) and Asif Mujtaba (62), punished some wayward bowling in a partnership of 118.

England A needed a sound start if they were to mount a challenge but Shah ripped through the top order, capturing the first five wickets.

Nick Knight failed to score and Ronnie Irani, Anthony McGrath, Nasser Hussain and Dominic Ostler also failed. At 59 for five, there was no way back.

The only England player to make any impact with the bat was Dean Headley, the Kent fast-medium bowler, who struck two sixes in a cavalier display, finishing 26 not out.

The England innings lasted a mere 23.4 overs but the tour manager, Mike Vockins, was far from downhearted after the match. "It was disappointing to lose our unbeaten record, but it shouldn't disguise the many good things that have come out of the tour," he said.

"Among the batsmen, Knight, Jason Gallian and Hussain all underlined their claims to be Test contenders, while young McGrath learned a great deal.

"On the bowling front, Headley and Ian Salisbury both put in some impressive displays. It has been a very pleasing trip."

SCOREBOARD FROM SHEKHUPURA

PAKISTAN A

Sajid Ali c Headley b Giddins	38
Shahid Anwar b Giddins	4
†Shakil Ahmed c Giddins b Irani	69
*Asif Mujtaba c and b Irani	62
Azhar Mahmood c Munton b White	25
Nadeem Akhtar not out	28
Zahid Fazal not out	0
Extras (b 6, lb 5, w 4, nb 7)	22
Total (5 wkts, 40 overs)	248

Azam Khan, Sajid Shah, Arshad Khan and Salman Fazal did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-53, 3-171, 4-206, 5-222

BOWLING: Munton 5-0-44-0; Giddins 8-2-28-2; Headley 7-0-39-0; White 5-0-35-1; Stemp 6-0-33-0; McGrath 5-0-24-0; Irani 4-0-33-2

ENGLAND A

N V Knight c Mujtaba b Shah	0
R C Irani c Salman Fazal b Shah	10
A McGrath c Ahmed b Shah	15
N Hussain c Salman b Shah	10
D P Ostler c Ahmed b Shah	13
C White lbw b Mahmood	16
K J Piper b Shah	2
D W Headley not out	26
T A Munton c and b Arshad	15
R D Stemp c Shah b Arshad	0
E S H Giddins c Arshad b Anwar	0
Extras (lb 2, w 5, nb 1)	8
Total (23.4 overs)	115

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-30, 3-31, 4-52, 5-59, 6-61, 7-75, 8-114, 9-114

BOWLING: Akhtar 5-0-9-0; Shah 8-0-43-6; Mahmood 4-0-22-1; Salman 2-0-16-0; Arshad 3-0-12-2; Anwar 1.4-0-11-1.

Gallagher bolsters chance of link with Blackheath

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JOHN GALLAGHER, the former New Zealand full back omitted from the Ireland training squad that travels to the United States at the end of this month, has been linked with Blackheath. Gallagher has been training with Harlequins since his return from rugby league, but may be ready to move to the Courage Clubs Championship second division club.

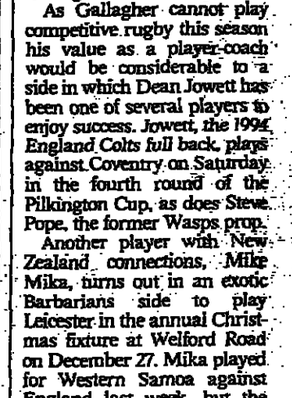
He is a teacher at Colfe's School, only a mile from Blackheath's Rectory Field, and would provide a valuable focal point to a club which has gone a long way towards re-establishing itself. The full back position at Harlequins is filled by Jim Staples, the Ireland captain, but Blackheath officials are waiting for confirmation of a move by Gallagher in the new year.

As Gallagher cannot play competitive rugby this season his value as a player-coach would be considerable to a side in which Dean Jowett has been one of several players to enjoy success. Jowett, the 1994 England Colts full back, plays against Coventry on Saturday in the fourth round of the Pilkington Cup, as does Steve Pope, the former Wasps prop.

Another player with New Zealand connections, Mike Mika, turns out in an exotic Barbarians side to play Leicester in the annual Christmas fixture at Welford Road on December 27. Mika played for Western Samoa against England last week, but the loose-head prop is based in Dunedin.

He is one of ten internationals in a XV drawn from seven countries. The others include David Lougheed, the Canada World Cup wing, and Rudolph Straeuli, the popular back-row forward from South Africa. Also in action will be two promising young English half backs, Andy Gomarsall and Alex King.

King, the Bristol University student, leapt to prominence in the divisional championship this season and shared



Gallagher: may move

with Gomarsall in England A's 55-0 win over the Samoans earlier this month. They are the only English players in the side, the requirements of league rugby three days later limiting the Barbarians in their selection.

Harlequins have become the latest club to establish links with higher education, by offering scholarships worth £8,000 at the University of Surrey, in Guildford. The university has a programme of sports scholarships, funded by industry and the British Council, but the club's intention is to fund an additional year of study which would allow the individual to participate in rugby union.

"Harlequins believe young players should be encouraged to develop their academic potential alongside their playing skills," Dick Best, the club's director of rugby, said. Bath already have strong contacts with their local university, while Leicester fund sports scholarships at Loughborough University.

BARBARIANS: J Thomas (Llanelli and Wales); D Lougheed (Toronto Welsh and Canada), L Davies (Neath), G Shiel (Melrose and Scotland), W Proctor (Llanelli and Wales); A King (Bristol University), A Gomarsall (Wasps); M Mika (Otago University and Western Samoa), J Hay (Hawick and Scotland), D Laporte (Dax), A Gibbs (Newbridge and Wales), R Barak (Dax), G Prosser (Pontypridd and Wales), I Morrison (London Scottish and Scotland), R Straeuli (Transvaal and South Africa).

WALES SQUAD (Punta del Este seven-a-side tournament, January 6-7): C Wyatt (Llanelli), S Gardner (Cardiff RFC), C Nott (Northampton), G Evans (Neath), M Williams (Pontypridd), L Jarvis (Pontypridd), A Harris (Swansea), D Edwards (Newport), D Llewellyn (Ebbw Vale).

Phillips prepares, page 17

Council pulls plug on premier event

BY CRAIG LORD

THE Edinburgh International swimming event has been cancelled because of a shortage of money, leaving a glaring gap in the domestic competition calendar at Easter. Budgetary constraints have forced Edinburgh District Council to stop funding the most prestigious international meeting in Britain, which has featured 18 Olympic and world champions over the past eight years. Records set at the event have been among the fastest times recorded in Britain.

The Labour-controlled council has spent about £40,000 on the meeting in each of the past eight years. The decision to cancel was taken earlier this month, ten days after the deadline by which all changes to the European Swimming League (LEN) calendar should have been registered.

An LEN spokesman said that a fine of about £2,000 would only be imposed if there were complaints about the cancellation. A spokesman for the event organising committee expressed disappointment at the decision and at the failure of British swimming to provide official support for its premier events.

"The value of having our top swimmers compete against the best in the world at home cannot be understated. That was the whole aim of the event, and there is no other competition that does that job in Britain. We've had a lot of inquiries from very disappointed swimmers," he said.

The decision comes at a time when the Scottish Sports Council is collaborating with local councils to install coaches, on a £30,000-a-year salary, at Scotland's three main swimming centres. So far, only one city, Aberdeen, has made an appointment. Alistair Johnson, a young assistant coach, from Stockport, has doubled his salary with the move north.

Times writers make their choices from the best books of 1995

Classic volumes worthy of the name

SOMEONE once told me — I imagine it must have been an angler — that more books have been written about fishing than any other subject except mathematics. It does not matter whether or not the claim is true: what certainly is true is that many great fishing books have been written over the centuries and that most of these are now available only from antiquarian booksellers at quite ridiculous prices.

In 1990, Justin Knowles, of Bovey Tracey, in Devon, set up The Flyfisher's Classic Library (TFCL). His aim was to resurrect the most-regarded of these works in a style that reflected their quality at a price that the keen reader could afford as a treat. Since then, Knowles has published around 50 titles, typically printing up to 500 copies of each. They are things of beauty, mostly quarter-bound in leather, with gold blocking, marbled end-plates, a silk marker and a robust slip-case.

The 1995 output has been a fly-fisher's Santa's grotto. It has included F. M. Halford's *Dry Fly Fishing In Theory And Practice* (£49.00), G. E. M. Skues's *The Way Of A Trout With A Fly* (£42.00) and John Waller Hills's renowned piece of scholarship, *A History Of Fly Fishing For Trout* (£35.00).

For the salmon angler, there is, among others, Younger's *River Angling For Salmon And Trout* (£37.00). Other authors available in the TFCL series include Francis, Grey, Plunket Green, Ronalds, Ransome, Scrope and Sheringham. They are available only from TFCL, Dartmoor View, Mary Street, Bovey Tracey, Devon, TQ13 9HQ.

Tragedy Of The Salmon, by David Shaw (£14.50 plus postage hardback, £8.50 plus postage paperback), is an extraordinary new book, from the Hillfield Press, PO Box 3, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 4YN.

It is — it sounds the kiss of death — a forensic examination of the passage of the 1986 Salmon Act, the most important piece of United Kingdom salmon legislation this century; yet it is a gripping read. It is all there — the infighting, the nodding and winking, the wheeling and dealing among government departments, vested netting interests, conservation groups and angling groups with, squeezed amid them all, the heroic fish itself. To be read with Machiavelli's *The Prince* and a stiff drink alongside.

Ferox Trout, by Ron Greer (Swan Hill, £19.95) is another kind of rarity, a work on angling that is pretty well without precedent. Greer and his colleagues in the now-famous Ferox 85 specimen group have not invented the grinding, bum-numbing and occasionally electrifying sport of trolling for wild cannibal trout, but they have systematized it rather in the way that Halford — the comparison will appal them — systematized dry fly-fishing at the sport's other extreme. A no-nonsense work of substance on an aspect of game angling with which few will be familiar.

The Far From Compleat Angler (Merlin Unwin, £16.99) is a collection of essays by Tom Fort, one of the most engaging of modern fishing writers. The pieces are in the familiar Fort style — languid, colourful, self-deprecating and amusing. One for the hammock. Put it beside the new paperback version of Jeremy Swift's *Arthur Ransome On Fishing* (Jonathan Cape, £8.99) and speed the winter through.

The usual crop of how-to books includes *Still Water Trout Fishing* by John Bailey and *Fly Fishing For Trout* by Bob Church and Peter Gathercole (both from Crowood at £19.95). The former is the better read and the more informative; the latter shows just how diverse this extraordinary sport is.

BRIAN CLARKE

Tributes to those in peril on the sea

THE story of the BOC Challenge, the first organised solo round-the-world yacht race, has run its course. After four of these circumnavigations, in which two men have died and countless other amateur and professional sailors have seen their hopes and dreams dashed on the rocks of reality, the company has chosen to end its sponsorship of an event that was rightly dubbed "the ultimate challenge".

Earlier this year, as Peter Blake and his New Zealand America's Cup crew were stealing the limelight in San Diego, the Frenchman, Christophe Auguin, sailed into Charleston to win the BOC race for the second time. However, the real story was about the men and women who did not make it, and two very different books, *The Loneliest Race* and *Around The Big Blue Marble*, centre on the adversities they faced and how their personal battles were won — or lost.

The Loneliest Race, written by Paul Gelder, centres on the trials, tribulations and eventual loss of Harry Mitchell, the 70-year-old Briton who was making his third attempt at fulfilling a lifelong dream of sailing round Cape Horn.

Around The Big Blue Marble is written by Nigel Rowe, the BOC executive who conceived the challenge in 1982 and became so involved with it that he chucked in his job to take part in the race last winter, only to endure a nightmare experience in the Southern Ocean. Read both books to understand what makes a man, or woman, take on these extraordinary personal challenges.

Another story of extreme bravery, often in the face of mountainous seas, is told in *Strong To Save*, a compilation of dramatic first-hand accounts of RNLI lifeboat rescues around the British Isles. These are short, riveting tales retold by Ray Kipling, the institute's former press officer, and cover the stories behind the headlines, including the Fastnet Race rescue in 1979 and the Penlee lifeboat disaster just before Christmas, 1981.

These are balanced by lighter tales of successful rescues of everything from distraught crews to animals. Included is the story of the Liverpool crew called on to tow its lifeboat inshore to rescue a boy stranded in the middle of a city lake.

Finally, a stocking-filler, *Why Do They Do It?* Mike Peyton's annual collection of sailing anecdotes and cartoons will provide laughter long after the turkey has gone.

☐ *The Loneliest Race*, by Paul Gelder (Adlard Coles Nautical, £15.99).
☐ *Around The Big Blue Marble*, by Nigel Rowe (Aurum Press, £16.95).
☐ *Strong to Save*, by Ray and Susannah Kipling (Haynes Publishing, £14.95).
☐ *Why Do We Do It?* by Mike Peyton (Fernhurst Books, £10.99).

BARRY PICKTHALL

Jones ready to quit ring to join Towers

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ROY JONES, the International Boxing Federation super-middleweight champion, is ready to quit boxing and pursue a basketball career with the Budweiser League team, London Towers.

League and club officials said that Jones plans to retire from boxing after his title defence against Merqui Sosa on January 12 and to move to England for a trial with the Towers.

"It's extremely serious," Rob Webb, a Budweiser League spokesman, said. "We've been in regular contact with his agent. It's very much the case that he'll call boxing a day after his fight and will come and try out with the Towers. He'll have to prove himself."

There was speculation that Jones's move could be related to his efforts to line up a lucrative unification bout against the World Boxing Council super-middleweight champion, Nigel Benn, of Britain, but the London club believe the boxer is using them as a stepping-stone towards a basketball career.

English teams can field two foreigners and the Towers, who are six points clear at the top of the league, already have two Americans — the guard, Danny Lewis, and the forward, Tony Windless.

Rich Dennis, a Towers spokesman, said Jones — who is expected to arrive in the third week in January — will be vying with Lewis for the guard position, but added: "It's too early to judge whether he would make it or not. He will have to be a pretty outstanding prospect for the coach to change the team at this stage."

Jones stands to take a large pay cut playing basketball in England. "He might go from $8 million [around £5.2 million] a year to £8,000 a year," Dennis admitted.

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Rangers to remember victims of disaster

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RANGERS are to build a permanent memorial to the 66 supporters who died in the Ibrox disaster 25 years ago. The Glasgow club yesterday revealed that it is to erect a memorial in the Govan-Copland corner, which is under redevelopment. It had been hoped the memorial would be ready for January 2, 1996 — the 25th anniversary of the disaster, in which 66 people were crushed while leaving a match against Celtic — but this has not been possible.

The Rangers director, Campbell Ogilvie, said: "For practical reasons we were not able to have this ready for the new year, but once the stand is complete I am sure the supporters will appreciate the memorial.



Ferguson: confined to bed

"It will be there for fans to remember relatives or friends who died that day, but also as a permanent reminder for Rangers supporters. It was after the disaster that the Rangers board decided to modernise Ibrox and the new stadium is, in fact, the greatest memorial to those who died."

The former Rangers captain, John Greig, who was playing on that day and is now the club's public relations executive, said: "I have been involved with Rangers for around 35 years and, irrespective of everything I have been through, that is the saddest day I can remember."

Duncan Ferguson, the Everton forward, is struggling to be fit for the FA Carling Premiership match away to Coventry City on Saturday. He has been confined to his bed suffering from flu after being sent home from training on Monday. Ferguson has made only two appearances as a substitute for Everton since his release from prison.

Vinny Samways, the Everton midfield player, is considering a move to Wolverhampton Wanderers. Samways, 27, has had talks with Mark McGhee, the new Wolverhampton manager, and the fee is estimated to be £1.5 million.

Ronnie Ekelund, the Denmark forward, is hoping to make his debut for Manchester City at home against Chelsea at Maine Road on Saturday. His move on loan from Barcelona has brought the number of foreign players contesting a first-team spot at Maine Road to four.

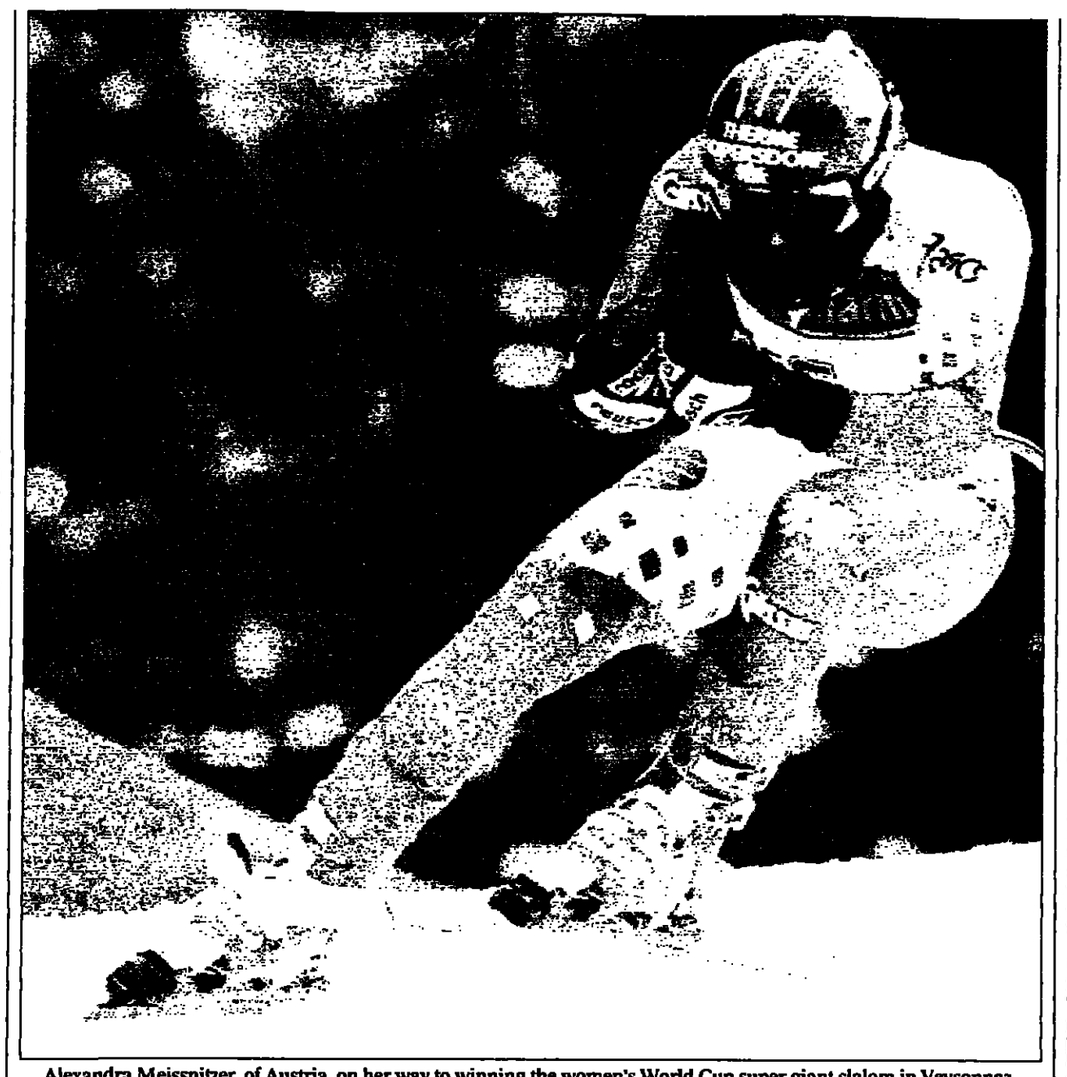
Ekelund had returned to Spain to sort out personal belongings but was expected back in Manchester yesterday to link up with the squad.

Dwight Yorke, the Aston Villa forward, could be fit to play against Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road on Saturday, despite sustaining a broken nose during the 4-1 defeat last week of Coventry City, which, it was feared, would keep him out of action for a month.

"I came through all the brain scans and tests fine and the only worry would be if I got a bang on it," Yorke, who has started every match this season, said. "The plaster comes off on Friday and we will know more then but I will be trying everything possible to make myself available."

The West Bromwich Albion chairman, Tony Hale, has announced that he would stand down if a big-money investor came forward.

Albion have lost nine successive first division matches. "If there is somebody with a lot of money who wants to put it into West Bromwich Albion and their heart is in the club, then I will talk to them," Hale said. "If they don't want me on the board then I am quite happy to move."



Alexandra Meissnitzer, of Austria, on her way to winning the women's World Cup super giant slalom in Veysonnaz, Switzerland, yesterday. Meissnitzer now leads the overall standings in the event. Photograph: Ruben Sprich

Lindsay defends loyalty agreements

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE Rugby Football League (RFL) last night rejected a claim that the backers of the new Super League next summer will have the power of veto over the transfer of some players, and the implication that it no longer controls the sport in this country.

It was earlier reported that "loyalty" agreements, signed by upwards of 20 leading players, the majority at Wigan and St Helens, meant they would not be able to change clubs without the permission of The News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, which has backed the Super League in an agreement worth £87 million over five years.

Speaking in Sydney, where he was appointed chairman of the new Super League International Board at its inaugural meeting, Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, said: "It is absolute nonsense to suggest that we have given up control of our sport or any part of it.

"The claim that the loyalty agreements require the players to play wherever The News Corporation say, is both unfair and irresponsible."

Loyalty packages offered by the Super League last April, worth several hundred thousand pounds in some cases, were part of its cheque-book war with the Australian Rugby League (ARL) in a bitter, continuing battle for control of the game in Australia.

Lindsay said: "Voluntary loyalty agreements have been signed by players. These will benefit them, the clubs of the RFL and fans. The simple truth is that within hours of the RFL signing The News Corporation contract we came under serious attack from the ARL, who tried to sign overnight almost the entire Great Britain and Wales playing squads."

It was the sole intention of the agreements, Lindsay said, to prevent English-based players signing for clubs belonging to the ARL, whose raiding party did succeed in approaches to three Wigan players, Gary Connolly, Jason Robinson and Martin Hall. The international trio are due to join, as yet, unspecified ARL clubs when their contracts at Central Park expire.

Whether they will have clubs to go to remains uncertain. A protracted court case between the Super League and the ARL ended in Sydney last week and a decision expected next month should determine the game's future direction in Australia which, at present, is set to comprise rival competitions.

☐ Rochdale Hornets have fined Tony Hilton after his suspension for three months for using the banned substance, ephedrine, which is found in cough and cold remedies. Steve Gibson, the Rochdale player-coach, said: "There is no question of Tony taking steroids but he has been silly. He told me he had been taking some cough medicine but all the players have been told to check with the doctor or physio."

Top clubs oppose Airdrie's proposal for change

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PROPOSALS for changes in the make-up of the Scottish League will be discussed at a meeting of the league management committee in Glasgow today. The first division clubs, led by the Airdrie chairman, George Peat, want to scrap the present format of four divisions of ten clubs and increase to 16 the number of teams in the premier division.

However, his plan looks doomed to failure. Rangers, Celtic and Hibernian are against it, as are the lower-division clubs. "I don't favour change at all. We will be a laughing stock if we alter the structure again in mid-season," Douglas Cromb, the Hibernian chairman, said. Cromb is one of five premier division representatives on the committee.

The present system was introduced at the start of last season and was voted in place for a five-year period. Opponents of change say sponsorship deals — including those with Bell's, Coca-Cola and Sky — could be affected if the format is altered.

Jim McLean, the Dundee United chairman, who is in favour of restructuring, said: "The ten-club league has simply not been a success in producing entertaining football. It breeds desperation and crucifies skill."

It will be up to the management committee to decide whether to call an extraordinary general meeting, at which 75 per cent of the votes would have to be in favour for a change next season, while a two-thirds majority would be required for a new format to be introduced for the 1997-98 season.

Premier division clubs have four votes, first division teams two votes and second and third division clubs (except Ross County and Caledonian Thistle) one vote apiece.

A 16-club premier division would mean clubs playing only 30 games but the proposal includes revamping the league cup competition by reverting to a previous sectional format.

"Our season tickets have been sold on the strength of 18 home games, so why cut to 15," Cromb said. "As for the proposed changes in the league cup, they baffle me, because the current competition is the best we have had."

IN BRIEF

Gunnell to face French in Glasgow showpiece

SALLY GUNNELL, the Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion, will run a flat 400 metres indoors for Great Britain against France at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, on February 24. Gunnell will open her brief indoor season two weeks earlier in her return to competition after the Achilles injury that prevented her from defending her world title in the summer.

The meeting in Glasgow will be ideal preparation for British athletes selected for the European indoor championships in Stockholm two weeks later, according to Tony Ward, the British Athletics Federation spokesman. "The bulk of the team will already have been selected and are likely to take part," Ward said.

Harris on top

Squash: Del Harris, the former world junior champion from Essex, whose return to form at the age of 26 took him to the World Open final in Nicosia last month, has been ranked as the England No 1 for the first time in nearly five years on the list issued yesterday by the Squash Rackets Association. Cassandra Jackman, from Norfolk, regains the top women's ranking for the first time since September 1992.

RANKINGS: Men: 1, D Harris, 2, S Parke, 3, M Chaloner, 4, C Walker, 5, M Cairns, 6, J Nicolle. Women: 1, C Jackman, 2, S Horner, 3, F F Geaves, 4, S Wright, 5, J Martin, 6, L Charman.

Millar rewarded

Cycling: David Millar, 18, Great Britain's junior 25-mile time-trial champion who has lived and raced successfully in Belgium this year, was named yesterday as the winner of the first David Rayner memorial scholarship and will move to a club in Brittany, France, early in the new year. The award is in memory of David Rayner, the international rider from Yorkshire, who died in November 1994.

Pakistan lead

Cricket: Pakistan beat New Zealand by 54 runs in Wellington yesterday in their third meeting in a four-match one-day series. Pakistan scored 261 for four after being asked to bat in perfect conditions then bowled out New Zealand for 207 in 45 overs to take a 2-1 lead in the series.

Henman to end year as No 1

TIM HENMAN will end 1995 with a double bonus — his highest world tennis ranking and the knowledge that next month he will be named as the British No 1.

Henman saw his world ranking rise this week from 98 to 95 in the final list to be issued before the new year — even though he did not hit a single ball in competition.

World rankings are based on a player's best 14 tournaments in a 12-month period, and three men ranked above him lost points last week.

When 1995 began, Henman, 21, was suffering from a broken ankle and was ranked only 167, which means that he has moved up 72 places in the past 12 months.

He will also become British No 1 when the 1995 home rankings are announced next month, even though the Canadian-born Greg Rusedski is far higher in the world rankings, at 37th.

This is because domestic rankings are only given to players who have been eligible to play for Great Britain during the past 12 months. Rusedski did not change his allegiance until May and so cannot be considered.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Detroit 94 Toronto 82; Cleveland 100 Minnesota 95, New York 89 Miami 70; Houston 103 Phoenix 96, Chicago 114 Dallas 101; Los Angeles Lakers 109 Milwaukee 105; San Antonio 111 Portland 103, Vancouver 94 Seattle 93, Golden State 102 Charlotte 99; Washington 108 Los Angeles Clippers 104

CRICKET

One-day international

New Zealand v Pakistan

WELLINGTON (New Zealand won toss). Pakistan beat New Zealand by 54 runs

PAKISTAN

Aamir Sohail b Larsen	58
Ramiz Raja run out	21
Ijaz Ahmed c Cairns b Twose	42
Inzamam-ul-Haq b Twose	54
Salim Malik not out	42
†Wasim Akram not out	36
Extras (b 2, lb 5, w 1)	8
Total (4 wkts, 50 overs)	261

Basit Ali, †Rashid Latif, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis and Aaqib Javed did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-51, 2-107, 3-136, 4-217.

BOWLING: Morrison 10-0-59-0, Patel 10-2-43-0, Cairns 10-1-62-0, Larsen 10-0-37-1; Twose 7-0-31-2, Astle 3-0-22-0.

NEW ZEALAND

N J Astle c Ramiz b Aqib	9
C M Spearman c Sohail b Wasim	33
B A Young lbw b Wasim	0
S P Fleming c Basit b Mushtaq	35
A C Parore lbw b Aqib	4
R G Twose b Sohail	37
C L Cairns run out	7
*†L K Germon b Wasim	40
D N Patel run out	13
G R Larsen c sub b Aqib	2
D K Morrison not out	11
Extras (lb 13, w 3)	16
Total (44.5 overs)	207

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-48, 3-48, 4-60, 5-107, 6-119, 7-143, 8-166, 9-174

BOWLING: Aqib 10-1-51-3, Wasim 7.5-0-31-3, Waqar 4-0-22-0; Mushtaq 10-2-26-1, Malik 3-0-17-0; Sohail 10-0-47-1

Man-of-the-match: Wasim Akram.

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Second division: Peterborough 0 Stockport 1 Third division: Fulham 4 Cardiff 2; Hereford 3 Scunthorpe 0.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Northwich 2 Telford 0

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Motherwell 0 Rangers 0 Third division: East Stirling 5 Albion 1

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Marine 1 Accrington Stanley 2. League cup: Third round: Gainsborough 4 Frickley 1, Guisley 1 Boston 1

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton 0 Salisbury 1. Dr Martens Cup: Second round: Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Crawley 2, Rothwell Town 0 King's Lynn 1. Replay: Bilston Town 5 Evesham United 2. Postponed: Trowbridge v Bashley. Southern division: Fleet Town 1 Newport IoW 1.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hayes 0 St Albans 0, Hendon 1 Hitchin 2. Carlton cup: Second round: Enfield 1 Yeading 2, Heybridge Swifts 3 Uxbridge 1 (aet), Sutton Utd 3 Abingdon T 0 (aet). Postponed: Walton and Hersham v Kingstonian.

LEAGUE OF WALES: League cup: Group one first round: Bangor City 4 Conwy 2

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: West Ham 1 Watford 0.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Everton 3 Sheffield Wed 0. Second division: Rotherham 0 Bradford 3. Third division: Chesterfield 3 Bury 2; Shrewsbury 0 Carlisle 3.

FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Portsmouth 1 Watford 2.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Under-16 Trophy: Cheshire 1 Merseyside 0; Hampshire 1 Dorset 1.

FIFA WORLD RANKINGS: 1, Brazil, 68.49pts; 2, Germany, 61.77; 3, Italy, 61.10; 4, Spain, 59.12; 5, Russia 58.76; 6, Holland, 57.35; 7, Argentina, 56.68; 8, France, 56.73; 9, Denmark, 56.43; 10, Norway, 55.74; 11, Romania, 55.10; 12, Mexico, 54.91; 13, Sweden, 54.79; 14, Czech Republic, 53.40; 15, Colombia, 53.29; 16, Portugal, 53.24; 17, Bulgaria, 53.02; 18, Switzerland, 52.11; 19, United States, 51.04; 20, Ivory Coast, 48.98; 21, England, 48.86; 22, Tunisia, 48.26; 23, Egypt, 48.21; 24, Belgium, 47.99; 25, Zambia, 47.86; 26, Scotland, 47.63; 27, Nigeria, 47.44; 28, Ireland, 47.32; 29, Ghana, 47.05; 30, Turkey, 46.26 Selected: 45, Northern Ireland, 38.54; 61, Wales, 33.98.

HOCKEY

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CUP: First-round draw: Aldridge v Driffield; Barton v Prescot, Chapeltown v Corby Town, Coventry and North Warwicks v Spalding; Daventry v Rotherham, De Montfort Univ (Bedford) v Ramgarhia (Leeds); Durham Univ v Sudbury; East Devon v Greenwich; Fleet v Horncastle; Hamble OB v Evesham; Harrow v Blossomfield; Hereford v Haslemere or Oxted, Horsham v Philpeans; Ipswich and East Suffolk v Farnborough or Morris Motors, Jersey v Farnham Common or Herne Bay; Kettering v BAC, Knutsford v Silch Enon (Coventry) Lydney v Finchfield, Melton v Marlborough, Morecambe v Norwich City Old Southendians v Bexley Invicta, Old Williamsonians v Blandford, PHC Chiswick v Adjutant Generals Corps, Purley or Salisbury v Pelicans; Rchinge Park or Bracknell v Bridgwater, Shefford v Dudley Sonning v Old Holcombians or Epsom; Stevenage v Tynemouth, West Herts v Milton Keynes, Weymouth v RN qualifier, Wigan v North Shelford, York, CS Trojans v St Neots

Matches to be played on January 21

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Pittsburgh 7 Calgary 1, New Jersey 5 Philadelphia 4 (OT), Tampa Bay 6 Winnipeg 3, St Louis 4 New York Islanders 1, San Jose 7 Anaheim 4

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Public Schools championship: Seniors: Foster Cup: Semi-finals: N Bailey (Eton) bt T Wigan (Eton) 18-16, 12-15, 15-7, 18-17, G Smith-Bingham (Eton) bt D Palmer-Tompkinson (Eton) 15-11, 15-11, 14-17, 15-7. Colt's Incledon-Webber Cup: Final: D Cherry (Tonbridge) bt Tschener-Barratt (Harrow) 5-15, 4-15, 15-8, 16-13, 15-12

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES CHAMPIONSHIP: Leeds 30 London Broncos 12.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	15	13	0	2	609	238	26
Leeds	16	11	0	5	456	315	22
St Helens	14	10	0	4	570	340	20
Halifax	14	9	0	5	338	331	18
Warrington	14	7	0	7	334	301	14
London Bronc	17	7	0	10	394	455	14
Sheffield	15	7	0	8	343	430	14
Bradford	14	6	0	8	288	333	12
Castleford	14	6	0	8	286	382	12
Oldham	15	4	0	11	268	456	8
Workington	16	2	0	14	245	550	4

SECOND DIVISION: Hunslet 22 York 26 Postponed: Carlisle v Doncaster

BARLA YOUTH TOUR MATCH: Humberside under-18 0 Australia 70.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Postponed: Tredegar v South Wales Police

SRU UNDER-21 INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Postponed: North and Mid Scotland v Scottish Exiles.

HART GILMORE FOUR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Postponed: Worcestershire and Herefordshire v Greater Birmingham.

SKIING

VEYSONNAZ, Switzerland: World Cup: Women: Super-giant slalom: 1, A Meissnitzer (Austria) 1min 28.72sec, 2, H Zurbriggen (Switz) 1.28.90; 3 M Dorfmeister (Austria) 1.29.17; 4, A Wachter (Austria) 1.29.40, 5, K Selzinger (Austria) 1.29.45, 6, K Gutensohn (Ger) 1.30.03. World Cup standings: Overall: 1, Meissnitzer (Austria) 448pts; 2, Selzinger 405; 3, Wachter 379, 4, Dorfmeister 349, 5, P Street (US) 328, 6, M Ertl (Ger) 293. Super-giant slalom: 1, Meissnitzer 222; 2, Selzinger 165, 3, Ertl 160; 4, Zurbriggen 138, equal 5, Dorfmeister and Wachter 129. Nations' Cup: 1, Austria 2,035, 2, Germany 1,189; 3, Switzerland 951, 4, Italy 555, 5, United States 545

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £3,616.85, 23 £106.95, 22 £3.70, 21 £2.75. Four draws £5.85. 10 homes £327.20. Five aways £198.70.

VERNONS: Treble chance (three dividends only, see rule 10F) 24pts £1,290.50, 23 £49.05, 22 £3.65. 10 homes paid on nine correct £29.10. Five aways £23.15.

ZETTERS: Treble chance, 24pts £510.20, 23 £7.55, 22 £0.75. Four draws £8.40. Eight homes £54.00. Four aways £45.80. Easy six £24.00. Goals galore £1.35. Lucky numbers 32 1 4 8 24 19.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Leeds v Stoke (at Halifax FC, 7.0)

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Felixstowe v Haverhill

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton v Wimborne.

SUBURBAN LEAGUE: Cup: Second round: Fleet Town v Wokingham

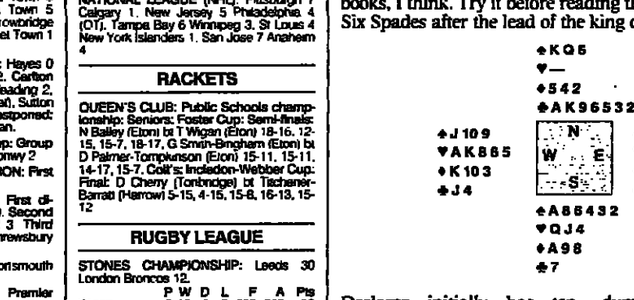
SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Fourth round: Aldershot v Oxford (at Farnborough Town). FA Premier League under-19 Trophy: Humberside v Nottinghamshire (Scunthorpe, 1.30). Worcestershire v Warwickshire (Studley Sports, 2.0). Under-16 Trophy: Cambridgeshire v Suffolk (Cambridge Stadium, 11.30): Hampshire v Berkshire (Studland Road, 2.0). London Cup: Buckinghamshire v Middlesex (Newport Pagnell, 1.30). Kent Cup: Dover v Bexley (10.30).

THE TIMES
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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a Christmas double dummy problem (that means that you are allowed to look at all the cards before planning your play.) I first saw it about 30 years ago, in one of Terence Reese's books, I think. Try it before reading the solution. South to make Six Spades after the lead of the king of hearts.



Declarer initially has ten tricks: six spades, one diamond, two clubs and a heart ruff in dummy. He can eventually establish an eleventh trick by forcing out the ace of hearts with the queen-jack heart combination.

Unfortunately, it seems that there is no way to establish a twelfth trick. If declarer tries to take another ruff in dummy, he must ruff with a high spade. This simultaneously establishes another trump trick for West, so declarer is back to 11 tricks.

The solution is to ruff the opening lead in dummy and cash the ace and king of clubs, discarding a heart on the second club. Declarer then leads a third club and ruffs with the trump ace. That is the critical play. This establishes the club suit in dummy but also establishes a trump trick for West.

Now, declarer returns to dummy with a high trump and leads a good club, on which he discards his last heart. West can ruff but cannot defeat the contract. If West returns a heart, declarer can ruff in hand, since he has discarded both of his hearts on clubs.

Declarer can then return to dummy with the remaining high trump, simultaneously drawing West's last trump. With no trumps remaining and clubs established, declarer uses the good clubs for whatever discards he needs.

Although this solution is correct at double dummy, it is also the best line even if you could not see the East-West cards. It succeeds whenever clubs are no worse than three-two and spades are no worse than three-one.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Wall leads

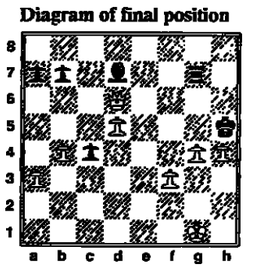
After five rounds of the Tyneside international in Newcastle, Tim Wall is setting the early pace with the score of five out of five. He heads a strong field that includes Neil McDonald and Andrew Whiteley, the international masters. The latter was the victim in this game, the most brilliant of the tournament so far.

White: Simon Ansell
Black: Andrew Whiteley
Tyneside international
December 1995

French Defence

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	e5	c5
4	c3	Nc6
5	Nf3	Qb6
6	a3	Bd7
7	Be2	cxd4
8	cxd4	Rc8
9	b4	Nge7
10	0-0	Nf5
11	Be3	Be7
12	Qd2	f6
13	exf6	Bxf6
14	Rd1	0-0
15	Nc3	Nce7
16	Rac1	Nd6
17	Ne5	Be8
18	Bg4	Nc4
19	Nxc4	Rxc4
20	Ne4	Be4
21	Nd6+	gxd6
22	Re1	f5
23	Be2	f4
24	Bxc4	fxe3
25	Qxe3	dxc4
26	Qg3+	Kf7
27	Qh3	Qc6
28	Rc3	Rg8
29	Rf3+	Nf5
30	Re5	Qd6
31	Qxh7+	Rg7
32	Rxd5+	exd5
33	Rxf5+	Ke6
34	Qh6+	Kxd5
35	Qxd6	Bc6
36	d5	Bd7
37	f3	Kg5
38	h4+	Kh5
39	g4+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Groningen

The 34th international chess tournament at Groningen, in Holland, is distinguished by the presence of the two contestants for the final of the Fide (World Chess Federation) world championship match. Anatoly Karpov, of Russia, and Gata Kamsky, of the United States, drew their games in the first round, as did grandmaster Michael Adams, the British representative. The early leader is Loek van Wely, of Holland.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

OUTEN
a. To put out
b. Oxford dancing team
c. Gastarbeiter

PUNGY
a. Strong-smelling
b. Bursar of Queens'
c. A small oyster boat

RIBSKIN
a. Sheep's spare ribs
b. A leather apron
c. Dwarf from Grimm

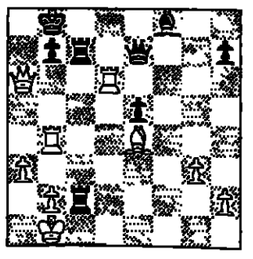
PUNDIGRION
a. A pun
b. Wessex farming tool
c. Cambridge punt pole

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from Riemersma — Piket, Dordrecht 1988. White could capture on c2, but Black has counter-attacked the white rook on d6. Can you see a preferable course of action for White?



Solution on page 46

Scholars who thrive on brain and brawn

So you don't have to be thick to get a Blue. In the car park at Twickenham just before the Varsity match last week the truth was revealed — university sportsmen these days are winners even in the academic arena.

An Oxford University task force, chaired by Dr Richard Cooper, of the university's sports development office, has found that the degrees won by the sportsmen outclass the average — there were at least two firstsout there in the Dark Blue rugby squad, Mark Reilly and Clive Jones, and there were 2:1s scattered all over the place. This is great news, not just for Oxford but for college students and schoolchildren everywhere.

For there has been a continuing and emotive debate about the status and role of sport in our universities and schools with, on the one hand, the ridiculous myth that playing games simply rules out academic achievement and, on the other, that success in sport can be achieved only by specialised academies or selective sporting scholarships.

After the Barcelona Olympics, the British Olympic Association set up a study into how we might improve our chances of medals at the Atlanta games next year. One of the findings was that we lag way behind countries like the United States and Australia in awarding sports scholarships, with Bath and Stirling among the few in the business at all. Big money and lavish facilities are tempting hundreds of our best young sportsmen and women to campuses in the United States every year. In America, college sport is big business, with TV and sponsorship money to spend. In Australia, the lion's share of £180 million is being poured into universities and colleges in the run-up to the next Olympics.

The Australians are very hot, too, on sporting academies of excellence — an idea picked up by John Major and the Minister for Sport, Iain Sproat. There is much debate about where we should site a British academy of sporting excellence and what form it should take.

> 'We have to get sport back on the curriculum'

But the sorry truth is that the failure of many of our sporting teams has little to do with the lack of new specialist academies, but plenty to do with the way we have let sport in schools wither and almost perish. As the study on the Oxford Blues demonstrates, we already have places to develop all-round excellence. What we have to do is to make sure they get the right raw material by getting sport back onto the school curriculum and by putting an absolute stop to the selling-off of school playing fields for short-term gain.



Throughout the Seventies and Eighties, sport as a contribution to a broad education was viewed with suspicion and even hostility. Competitive sport became a particular target of the anti-sport lobby, and there was a feeling that admissions tutors, particularly at Oxford and Cambridge, would do almost anything to keep games players out. That looks like a big mistake in the light of the findings of Dr Cooper's Oxford task force. "The university," he said, "has a firm line that we do not let in anybody who isn't up to it academically. But the top sportsmen tend to be tremendous organisers, who pack a lot into their day."

Educationally, the sportsmen may well be reclaiming ground that historically was theirs in the first place. The ancient Greeks, who gave us practically all of the legacy that has become modern sport, were the first to start hanging around the gymnasium. Professor H. A. Harris, who researched and wrote wonderfully on Greek athletics, tells us that "many Greeks felt for their gymnasium the same loyalty and affection that some men today still feel for their school or university".

For the Greeks, their gymnasium was much more than a sports centre — it was the focus of their cultural, intellectual and social life. They were decorated with statues and paintings, and were often the venue for poetry readings, concerts, debates and lectures. These athletic institutions had huge political and educational influence. A leading intellectual would often frequent a particular gymnasium so often that he would build up a big following. Two of the most famous of these gyms were to be found in Athens in the 5th century BC; they were the Lyceum and the Academia. It was in the Academia, between work-outs, that Socrates, the philosopher, lectured, thought and taught. These gyms were really the world's first universities, achieving all-round excellence centuries before the admissions tutors of Oxford and Cambridge colleges agonised over whether to let in games players, and these Greek scholar-sportsmen bequeathed us the very vocabulary of education — "academy, academic, and gymnasium".

> 'The gym was the focus of social and cultural life'

The idea that sportsmen should not achieve the highest academic honours would have been laughable to them. The great Plato competed in the Isthmian games as a wrestler, and the legendary Milo won victories at five successive Olympic Games. Milo laid on some formidable demonstrations of his prodigious strength. He is said once to have carried a bull all the way round the stadium at Olympia — and then to have eaten it in a day. When his followers presented him with a life-size stone statue of himself he heaved it unaided up the stadium steps. And for a party trick he would tie a ribbon around his forehead and burst it by swelling his veins.

Milo also served his city well. He won accolades as a scholar and military leader, and was part of the elite intellectual group which gathered around the philosopher and mathematician, Pythagoras, whose daughter he is said to have married.

It is to be hoped that, thanks to the work of Dr Cooper and his team proving that even great sporting prowess is no bar to academic achievement these days, Milo might be just the sort of chap to catch the eye of even the most demanding of those Oxbridge admission tutors.

JOHN BRYANT

Eton quartet achieve singular success

BY SALLY JONES

AFTER a quarter of a century of near-misses, Eton are assured of winning the elite senior singles event of the public schools rackets championship, the Foster Cup, before a ball of the final is struck today. The title was secured after the quarter-finals — when the four Etonians in the event won their matches, to the delight of the school's veteran rackets professional, Norwood Cripps, and a vociferous gallery of Etonians old and new, all desperate to add to a bulging trophy cabinet.

The school had already achieved a record, fielding three of the top four seeds, in the favourite, Neal Bailey, and the third and fourth seeds, Patrick Wigan and Guy Smith-Bingham. The only unseeded Etonian, Dominic Palmer-Tomkinson, eliminated Angus Falconer, the No 2 seed, from Malvern, on the opening day.

Palmer-Tomkinson then belied his reputation for inconsistency by eliminating the dogged Edward Craig, of Winchester, in the last of the quarter-finals. With Bailey, Wigan and Smith-Bingham already through in straight games, all the pressure was on him to complete a clean sweep and, despite a gritty comeback by Craig, who led by two games to one and 10-6, Palmer-Tomkinson kept his nerve and blasted his way out of trouble.

After the semi-finals went according to seeding, Bailey and Smith-Bingham will meet in the main event today. Until now, the Foster Cup has been the only singles trophy to elude Cripps throughout his 17 years at the school, although his pupils have lifted 17 other national titles in the lower age group. This will be Eton's first victory in the event since Robin Drysdale, the tennis international, took the title 25 years ago and Cripps confessed that the weight of expectation from success-hungry parents and old boys was becoming oppressive.

"There's been a lot of pressure in the past; knives in the back and people nagging me about why we hadn't won a senior title for so long, particularly because we've got such a big, thriving rackets club — around 100 boys playing in one half [term]," he said.

"But in fact whenever we had a talented boy who looked a possible winner — like Guy Smith-Bingham's elder brother, Alex, for example — it has always seemed that he would be in the same year as a really outstanding lad from another school: Matthew Windows, from Clifton, in Alex's case — so our boys would reach the final but never quite make it.

"This time though, we've been incredibly lucky to have four very good lads coming through at the same time. They are all fine athletes — Bailey is also the captain of football and recently scored two goals to win the Berkshire League final — Wigan is captain of squash, Palmer-Tomkinson is rackets captain and Smith-Bingham has never lost a singles match in the public schools championship.

"They all get on well and really spur each other on, practising together and also playing a lot with me and several top old Etonians, like the former world champions, Willie Boone and Mark Hue Williams. I'm proud that they play really nice rackets with good technique, not just relying on strength and a good eye to thrash the ball about. They're getting pretty close to me now, so I have to rely on guile to beat them."

As for celebrations? "We'll be having a big dinner party for them next half and, whoever wins the final, I think all four of them should be feeling pretty festive as they go home for Christmas."



Eton boys, from left, Wigan, Bailey, Palmer-Tomkinson and Smith-Bingham enjoy their Foster Cup clean sweep. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Mayer completes victory for Britain

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

THE Great Britain men's hockey team gave a satisfactory performance in defeating Egypt 2-0 in the first of two international matches in Cairo yesterday and will play another match against them today.

Garcia gave the British team an encouraging start with a flick into the net from a short corner in the third minute. However, the match was made safe only three minutes before the end when Robert Thompson eluded the goalkeeper and back-passed to Mayer, who scored. The award of nine short corners to each side summed up the balance of play to which David Whitaker, the Britain coach, gave his own reaction.

"We allowed Egypt to exert pressure in the first half but we grabbed the match back and played adequately at times, creating enough chances to win," he said. Green warning cards were shown to Halls and Fordham, of Britain, and Bilal Ibrahim and Ibrahim Tawfik, of Egypt.

EGYPT: Hatim Gamal; Ibrahim Tawfik, Abdel Moamin, Abdel Khalik, Magdy Abdolla, Bilal Ibrahim, Mohamed Rafaat, Yasser Monaim, Mahmood Samir, Imad Amin, Mohamed Yazid. Subs used: Ahmed Abbas, Mohamed Mahmood, Amro Fattah, Mohamed Saied.

GREAT BRITAIN: S Mason; J Halls, J Wyatt, G Fordham, Kalbir Talcher, S Hazlitt, C Mayer, R Garcia, R Thompson, J Laskett (capt), N Thompson. Subs used: Soma Singh, D Hall, C Giles, J Shaw.

Umpires: Ayman Amin (Egypt) and Hisham Kohany (Egypt).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

OUTEN

(a) To extinguish, to put out. United States dialect. M. K. Rawlings, *South Moon Under*, 1933: "Outen that light."

PUNGY

(c) A small boat used in oyster-dredging. United States dialect. W. Churchill, *R. Carvel*, 1899: "The big ship was already sliding into the water as I leaped into my pungy."

RIBSKIN

(b) A leather apron worn by women for ribbing flax. A covering for one's ribs. Skelton, *Elinor Rummyng*, 1529: "They layde to pledge theyr wharrowe, theyr rybskyn and theyr spyndell."

PUNDIGRION

(a) A pun, a quibble. Earlier form or derivative of pun. Southey, *Omniana*, 1812: "Many will lose their friend rather than their jest, or their quibble, pun or pundigrion."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Rd8+! Qxd8; 2, Rxb7+ Kc8; 3, Bf5+ and mate next move.

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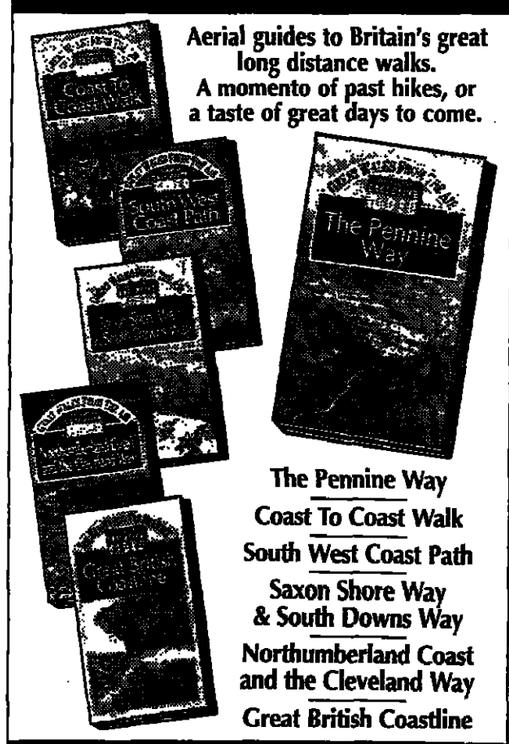
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SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm) °C	Last snow
ANDORRA							
Soldeu	30	100	good	crusty	good sun	1	16/12
(Excellent skiing under sunny skies; 15 of 21 lifts open)							
AUSTRIA							
Obergurgl	55	60	good	powder	good cloud	0	18/12
(Pistes mostly good despite odd worn patch; no queues)							
St Anton	15	120	good	heavy	worn rain	2	18/12
(Poor weather but snow good on higher runs)							
Schladming	30	60	good	varied	fair cloud	5	20/12
(Mostly good but lower pistes becoming worn)							
Sölt	15	50	fair	varied	closed cloud	-1	18/12
(Some pistes good, others varied; snow forecast)							
FRANCE							
Alpe d'Huez	40	100	good	varied	good cloud	2	17/12
(Still plenty of good skiing but some very thin areas)							
Avoriaz	45	65	fair	varied	fair cloud	0	18/12
(Skiing limited in effect to four main pistes)							
La Plagne	20	50	fair	varied	closed cloud	5	18/12
(Only glacier and one other piste open)							
Tignes	15	100	good	heavy	art snow	2	20/12
(Good piste skiing on glacier marred by high winds)							
Val d'Isère	15	100	fair	poor	art cloud	6	18/12
(Some good skiing at altitude; lower runs very worn)							
Val Thorens	15	50	fair	varied	fair snow	-2	20/12
(Good snow on higher slopes; pistes uncrowded)							
SWITZERLAND							
Verbier	25	80	good	varied	worn cloud	1	18/12
(Good piste skiing but flat light; 19 of 38 lifts open)							
Zermatt	0	70	fair	poor	closed cloud	-5	18/12
(Very few skiers about; glacier good but poor visibility)							

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

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Christmas, Swiss-style

Not the Nine Lessons and Carols. *Radio 3, 9.40pm.*

By constantly moving from one canton to another, this Swiss Radio production keeps its promise to capture Switzerland's rich Christmas-time diversity. The carols and biblical readings are in the country's various languages, with English translations. The choristers are the Basler Madrigalsten. The lay readers express fascinatingly unorthodox opinions. One confesses that he could not cope with the goodness and peacefulness of the Garden of Eden. Another proclaims that, despite what the Bible says, the poor should not be expected to remain contented with their lot. Now you know why, in its title, this programme implicitly dissociates itself from the glorious Christmas Eve broadcast from King's College, Cambridge.

Tales of the Bizarre: The Jar. *Radio 4, 11.00pm.*

Ray Bradbury rarely writes about anything pleasant. He called one of his novels *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, which just about sums up what he does so well. *The Jar* is quintessential Bradbury. Charlie (Roger May) buys a jar from a carnival tent. It contains what looks like the embryo of a baby. Formerly ignored by the townspeople, Charlie becomes a celebrity. Somebody asks whether his strange purchase is an octopus. Or a possum's innards? Or is it a jellyfish, or just some old junk? To Charlie, this "pale thing in a floating world" could be an emperor in his palace. Everybody could be right — or wrong. That is Ray Bradbury for you. Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa I'Anson, incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat; and at 1.15 The Nat 3.00 Mark Goodier, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session. A festive pop quiz 9.00 Soundbite 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sturgess

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Change at Oglethorpe 7.30 David Allan 9.00 Paul Jones 9.45 The Gospel Train 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden, including at 1.30 Pause for Thought 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.35 Euronews and at 11.00 News; Gut Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck; and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, incl at 3.15 Question Time 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 Sport 7.35 On the Line 8.05 Women on Top 9.05 SportsAmerica 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, incl at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anne Rasbum 4.00 Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Moz Dee 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

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All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe 7.00 News 7.15 *Middlemarch* 7.30 Network UK 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Composer of the Month 8.45 Good Books 9.00 News in German 9.15 Sport 9.45 Sports 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 BBC English 10.45 *Middlemarch* 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Sinatra 12.00 World News 12.05pm World Business 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Assignment 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack: X-Press 3.00 News in German 3.15 The Learning World 3.30 Network UK 4.00 News 4.15 The World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 John Peel 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 Business 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Maddian 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 World News 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Network UK 11.45 Health Matters Midnight Newsdesk 12.30am On the Move 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 Heritage 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Drama: *The Wizard of Oz* 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Faith 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe 4.45 Folk Routes

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata 7.00 The Travel Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Rossini (Overture, The Silken Ladder); Tchaikovsky (Fantasy Overture, Romeo and Juliet); **6.28** *Symphony Series:* Mozart (Symphony No 36 in C, Linz); **7.05** Corelli (Sonata in F, Op 5 No 4); Arnold (Clarinet Sonatina); Chopin (Waltz in A minor, Op 34 No 2); Handel (Chandos Anthem No 4, O sing unto the Lord a new song)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Poulenc (L'Emberquement pour Cythère); Beethoven (Cello Sonata in C); Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Albinoni (Trumpet Concerto in C); Purcell (Birthday Ode, Who can from joy refrain?); **11.08** *Artist of the Week:* Martin Roscoe, piano, plays George Lloyd (Piano Concerto No 1, Scapegoat); Tchaikovsky (The Sleeping Beauty, excerpts)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Zelenka (Laudate Dominum; Trio Sonata No 3 in B flat; Psalm 150, Chvalte Boha silnoho); Quantz (Concerto in G for flute, oboe and continuo); Zelenka (Psalm 113, In exitu Israel)

1.00pm British Opera Matinée: Death in Venice. English Chamber Orchestra under Steuart Bedford performs Benjamin Britten's swansong, based on the story by Thomas Mann. With Peter Pears, John Shirley Quirk and James Bowman

3.40 Brief Lives. The untimely death of Thomas Linley the younger in 1778 has been described as one of the greatest losses that English music has suffered (3/3)

4.25 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Alexander Gibson performs Bax (Tintagel); Sibelius (Lemminkainen and the Maidens of Saari) (r)

5.00 The Music Machine. Sir John Manduell, Stephen Cleobury and Fritz Spiegl choose their musical likes and dislikes

5.15 In Tune. David Owen Norris and Ian Stewart, author of *Does God Play Dice?*, consider the numerological aspirations of composers

7.30 Amsterdam Mahler Festival. The third of 15 concerts. The Netherlands Radio Choir and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra under Bernard Haitink perform Symphony No 2, Resurrection

9.20 Cinema 100: The Dream Project. The producer Stephen Woolley talks about his ultimate fantasy film (3/4)

9.40 Not the Nine Lessons and Carols. See Choice

10.45 Night Waves in Las Vegas. Tony Palmer on the city's new emphasis on fun for all the family

11.30-12.30am The BBC Orchestras. BBC Concert Orchestra: Geoffrey Mitchell Choir under Barry Wordsworth perform previously unrecorded works by Gustav Holst, including Christ Hath a Garden and The Coming of Christ; Hecuba's Lament is sung by the mezzo Catherine Wyn-Rogers: Alan Bush (Piers Ploughman's Day)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze

10.00-10.30 News; King Street Junior (FM only). School comedy (3/6) (r)

10.00 Daily Service (LW only)

10.15 Those Glorious Songs of Old (LW only) (4/5)

10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray. Short story: *Electric Arrows*, by E. Annie Proulx

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm Wordly Wise. Peter Hobday chairs the panel game. With Francis Wheen, Susan Jeffreys, *Times* columnist Lynne Truss and Graham Norton **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Sealed with a Kiss, by Patrick Cumper. Josette Simon plays Ellen, a romantic novelist on a country retreat, who is torn between two neighbours. With Dona Croll

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift. The story of how 200 shipbuilders spent Christmas 1968 on board the QE2

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen visits the Playhouse in Norwich, and there is a preview of the season's highlights on radio

4.45 The Story of Doctor Dolittle, by Hugh Lofting. Read by Alan Bennett (4/5)

5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Nigel Wrench **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Old Harry's Game. A comedy series by Andy Hamilton. With Andy Hamilton and James Grout (5/6)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Wish Me Luck as You Wave Me Goodbye. Harry Thompson presents an ironic look at the business of death

8.00 H.G. Wells: the Invisible Author. Brian Morton argues that Wells widened the "class catchment" of the English novel (r)

8.45 Shelf Lives: Perrier. Nigel Cassidy tells the story of the mineral water's rise, fall and rebirth

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? The actress and author Rosamund Browne shares her experiences as a child with cerebral palsy in postwar Britain

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Owen Bennet Jones

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Go-Between, by L.P. Hartley. Read by John Rowe (9/10)

11.00 Ray Bradbury Introduces Tales of the Bizarre. See Choice

11.30 Ad Lib. Robert Robinson goes below stairs (r)

12.00 News, incl **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow, by Peter Hoeg (4/5)

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Makey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

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Documentaries good, mockumentaries bad

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

"Mock ye not" commanded Frankie Howerd. But mocking — ye, me and anyone they can get their hands on — is what more and more documentary makers are doing, as they trade in the traditional tools of information and investigation for the quick fix of ritual humiliation.

The small ad placed by the researchers for last night's **Modern Times: Man Seeks Woman** (BBC2) should have read: "Wanted, three gentlemen with experience of dating agencies, n/s, gsoh, pic required, no oddballs." But that would have been far too dull for Susanna White, the director. "Wanted," she redrafted: "three lonely schmucks, keen on public ridicule, gsoh a disadvantage, pic required, the odder the better."

What she actually got was two schmucks and someone nursing a sinister secret, but that was good enough. So we met Pete, the Italian stallion of Slough — Pete the perv to his workmates at the double-glazing firm, Pete the prat to the rest of us. Pete liked to live life in the fast lane. Fast cars and fast women were his dream. The fast forward button became mine.

But that would have meant missing out on Simon — late forties; drives a Reliant Robin; lives in a caravan next to his parents' bungalow; likes playing with his train set and listening to Status Quo. Dream date? Samantha Fox. Unusual features? A splendid pair of sideburns, that Mr Darcy would have given his eye teeth for. Actually it wouldn't have been a bad swap.

That left Robert. Robert who had the secret. Late forties again, good-looking in a Cliff Richard sort of way, nobly bringing up his daughters on his own, personable and quite prepared to share his first date with six children. Cast as he earlier had been as the token Mr Normal, the unveiling of Robert's secret provided a genuine surprise towards the end of a film I still wasn't convinced I should have been watching.

Robert used to be a villain. "Burglaries, shop-breaking, car theft, firearm offences, robberies ... But these days I don't even drop litter." We never did learn what Gina (pretty, mother of four) made of Robert's confession, but up until then things had been going well.

Which is more than could be said for Pete and Simon. Pete, having displayed a disturbingly persistent interest in a naval nurse's uniform on their first date, was back in the twilight world of the serial fantasist. As for Simon, he was, in the immortal words of Gilbert O'Sullivan, alone again — naturally. Having been rejected by two women, Simon was back in his caravan, trading lonely air-guitar licks with Rick Parfitt. The Status Quo track being belted out was *Dear John*. I wondered who chose it — Simon, or the director?

No such concerns, however, with Edward Mirzoeff, who as executive producer brought the full deference he traditionally reserves for matters royal to bear on **Britannia** (BBC1). It was a timely bit of bowing and scraping — after *HMS Brilliant, In the Company of Men* and *Redcaps* the Corporation's standing with the Armed Forces is said to be distinctly tarnished. But by the end of this, like everything else on the Royal Yacht, it gleamed.

This was documentary-making as it used to be, giving us access to something we would not normally see — an all-decks view of the only ship to have a line of 24-carat gold leaf down its side rather than a name. No one was held up to ridicule or stitched up by clever editing and, blow me, there was even a narrator. I had almost forgotten what they were.

Statistics rained down on us — 85 state visits, £10 million a year to run, 250 crew, 52 cabins, 2,200 toilet rolls, umpteen pots of Brasso ... someone had done a lot of counting. The problem is, of course, the sums do not add up.

Catrine Clay, the producer, gave the officers and crew ample opportunity to wax devotedly eloquent over their ageing charge. "People invariably say she is the most beautiful ship they have ever seen," said one. Even the Duke of Edinburgh had a go, but only after planting a royal smacker on the Queen's regally proferred cheek. "We were involved from the beginning: arranging the design, furnishing, equipping, hanging the pictures. It's really rather a wrench to see her go."

The nearest we got to subversion, in a film that I suspect may yet influence the Royal Yacht's future, was Oz, the reluctant but relaxed ship's florist, who had picked up his flower arranging skills on the job. "I just put the green stuff in first and then the colours. Should go down well." Like everything else in this classically crafted gem, it did.

Further evidence that all is not lost for documentary-making was provided by **Do Vampire Bats Have Friends?** (Channel 4). The answer to the title is yes, but unpleasant ones. Bats that have managed to feed successfully, feed those that have not by the neat party trick of regurgitating blood. Someone spent five years of their life finding that out.

But the real question was, do they know they are bats? The hunt for animal self-awareness was the theme of Christopher Sykes's genuinely thought-provoking film and the general conclusion was bad news for anyone wrapping presents for little Tiddles. "I think it will be very difficult for some people to accept," warned one ethnologist (now there's a word you don't see on your television every day), "because it will mean they have over-endowed these charming creatures with mental lives." Never mind, do they know it's Christmas? Do they know they're cats?

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (55247)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (34548624)

9.05 The Stone Protectors (r) (8427860) **9.30 Charlie Brown and Snoopy Show** (r) (4173605) **9.50 Pingu** (r) (3883518)

10.00 News (Ceefax) (7510191)

10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (4038222) **10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick** (s) (57537) **12.00 News** (Ceefax) (8387773) **12.05pm Pebble Mill Big Band Special** (s) (5533605)

12.50 Regional News and weather (64472150)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (34605)

1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (96922599) **1.50 The Flying Doctors** (Ceefax) (s) (8763105) **2.35 Memorial to Lockerbie** (5388266) **3.05 Timekeepers** (s) (6519228)

3.30 Moomin (1353402) **3.55 Monster Cafe** (s) (3593711) **4.10 The Animals of Farthing Wood** (Ceefax) (s) (1840334)

4.35 Smart (Ceefax) (s) (1911063)

5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (3345570)

5.10 The Biz. Last in the series about the fortunes of children who attend the Markov School of Dance and Drama. (Ceefax) (s) (8710599)

5.35 Neighbours. (r) (Ceefax) (s) (876131) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 5.35** Inside Ulster

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (624)

6.30 Regional News magazines (976) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 6.30** Neighbours **6.55** On the Way to Bethlehem **6.58** Inside Ulster News

7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (7841)

7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (860)

8.00 The Detectives. Thicker Than Water. (Ceefax) (s) (3889)



Doting grandparents Keith and Gaunt (8.30pm)

8.30 CHOICE **Next of Kin.** Christmas special. (Ceefax) (s) (5624)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) (6334)

9.30 Roughnecks. Final episode in the series about a North Sea oilrig. (Ceefax) (s) (398063)

10.20 FILM: Carry On Columbus (1992) with Jim Dale, Alexei Sayle, Julian Clary, Rik Mayall, Leslie Phillips and June Whitfield, to name but a few. Continuing the *Carry On Christmas* season with the story of Christopher Columbus, off on his historic voyage with the surviving *Carry On* crew. Directed by Gerald Thomas (Ceefax) (5547518) **WALES: 10.20** The Slate (600570) **10.55** Film: Carry On Colombus (3549421) **12.25am** The Rolling Stones Stripped (2239822) **1.20** Film: Five Card Stud (214803) **3.00** News headlines and weather (91594006)

11.50 CHOICE **The Rolling Stones Stripped.** The Stones in concert (s) (293624)

12.45 FILM: Five Card Stud (1968) With Dean Martin and Robert Mitchum. A card sharp is lynched by his fellow card players for cheating; the members of the lynch party die one by one. Directed by Henry Hathaway (684532)

2.25am Weather (8651342) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 2.28** Inside Ulster News

BBC2

7.00am Breakfast News (Signed) (9808808)

7.15 Lassie (r) (2500624) **7.40 Albert the 5th Musketeer** (r). (Ceefax) (7422266) **8.05 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (2883841) **8.35 The Record** (s) (7223247) **9.00 Arctic Odyssey** (3000228) **9.50 Brilliant Gardens** (r) (3874860) **10.00 Playdays** (r) (s) (5488763)

10.25 FILM: Angel Square (1990) A Canadian seasonal tale directed by Anne Wheeler. (Ceefax) (s) (65951889)

12.05pm The Angel and the Soldier Boy (r) (5188247) **12.30 The Legend of Lochnagar** (r). (Ceefax) (79131) **1.00 Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams** (48648334) **1.15 Traditions of Christmas** (26817570)

1.20 Family Apart Child abduction (44229624) **1.50 Understanding Cats** (15286315) **2.05 Carols from Devon** in Buckfast Abbey (r) (76574334)

2.10 NEW **More Secret Gardens.** Castle Tor, Torquay, Devon (69005711)

2.20 FILM: A Christmas Story (1983). (Ceefax) (291334) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) (9382131)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (889) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (773) **5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (Ceefax) (s) (5086860) **5.40 Miss-Takes** (841570)

6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. (Ceefax) (s) (787605)

6.45 Rocky Star (b/w). Science-fiction spoof (646353)

6.50 Close Up. Screenwriter and director Paul Schrader selects a scene from Robert Bresson's *Pickpocket* (s) (366605)

7.00 Waiting for God. (r). (Ceefax) (s) (8711)

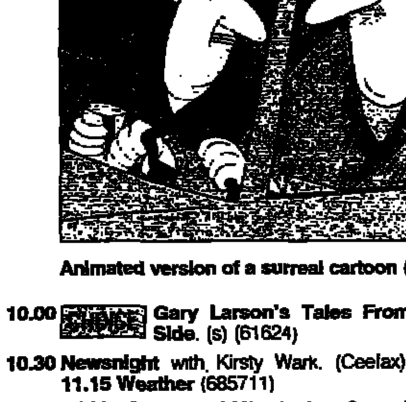
7.30 First Sight (402) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 7.30** Sceal Dha Chistin **7.35** Now You're Talking; **WALES: 7.30** Dad's Army; **EAST: 7.30** Matter of Fact; **MIDLANDS: 7.30** Midlands Report; **NORTH, NORTH-EAST, NORTH-WEST: 7.30** Close Up North; **SOUTH: 7.30** Southern Eye; **SOUTH-WEST: 7.30** Close Up; **WEST: 7.30** Close Up West

8.00 Public Eye: Exorcists. (Ceefax) (s) (4131)

8.30 Top Gear. (Ceefax) (s) (3266)

9.00 The Ghostbusters of East Finchley Last in the series. (Ceefax) (s) (4976)

9.30 The Young Ones. (r). (Ceefax) (99995)



Animated version of a surreal cartoon (10.00pm)

10.00 CHOICE **Gary Larson's Tales From the Far Side.** (s) (61624)

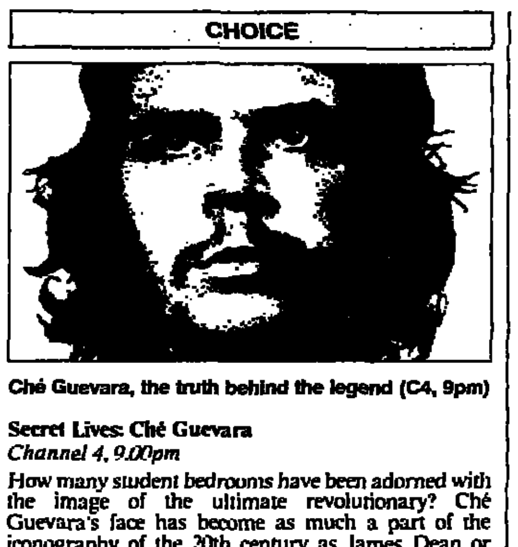
10.30 Newsnight with Kirsty Wark. (Ceefax) (952605) **11.15 Weather** (685711)

11.20 FILM: Colors (1988) starring Sean Penn and Robert Duvall. (Ceefax) (86487082). Ends at **1.25am**

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CHOICE



Ché Guevara, the truth behind the legend (C4, 9pm)

Secret Lives: Ché Guevara
Channel 4, 9.00pm

How many student bedrooms have been adorned with the image of the ultimate revolutionary? Ché Guevara's face has become as much a part of the iconography of the 20th century as James Dean or Elvis Presley. He is a fitting subject for this iconoclastic series which seeks to puncture established reputations. According to Alex Anderson's documentary, the romantic revolutionary did not die in the Bolivian jungle at the hands of the CIA as is generally assumed. Andersen also claims that the famous guerrilla strategies were often errors of judgment which Fidel Castro had to cover up. The programme uses home movies, rarely-seen archive material and key witnesses to sort out the man from the legend.

Gary Larson's Tales from the Far Side
BBC2, 10.00pm

Gary Larson's syndicated cartoons, books and many merchandising spin-offs have made the American's darkly surreal comic world a very familiar one. A distant relative of Charles Addams's morbid humour, Larson's gift is for mutating the mundane into the monstrous. During the course of this largely wordless animated stream of vignettes we are introduced to a host of grotesque characters. There is the whisk-wielding fury of a housewife terrorising two eggs innocently making out in a car, a grieving wolf watching home movies of his lost love and a rather unusual version of *Moby Dick*. Like all of Larson's work, it is a visual treat better seen than described.

The Rolling Stones — Stripped
BBC1, 11.50pm

"I've always said about Mick that he could work a coffee table or a postage stamp better than anyone," says Keith Richards in this nice little record of their recent small-scale venue tour. A filmed accompaniment to the live album (in the shops now folks!) this is a series of excerpts from the rehearsals and live performances mainly consisting of stuff from *Let it Bleed* and *Exile on Main Street*. Shot in black and white and colour, the highlights include a desolate *Wild Horses* and Mick Jagger attempting to speak French. Broken up with little soundbites from the band, the film is a reminder of why the Rolling Stones have lasted so long. As Richards says, they are a great club band that just got bigger and bigger gigs.

Next of Kin
BBC1, 8.30pm

When the first series of this sit-com was screened earlier there was some doubt as to whether the "sit" was a suitable subject for the "com". Penelope Keith and William Gaunt played a couple preparing to enjoy their retirement years when they were forced to take on their three grandchildren after the death of the children's parents. Yet the BBC has commissioned a second series, starting in the new year, and this Christmas special. Domestic disorder arises when reluctant carer Maggie (Keith) jumps at the chance of a temporary job running a smart restaurant. Meanwhile, Andrew (Gaunt) takes over the school run and becomes rather too friendly with another woman, much to the dismay of the children. Oh, and there is a Nativity play in it as well.

Frances Lass

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (8345044) **9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man** (r) (8432792) **9.50 Batman — The Animated Series** (s) (1013570) **10.20 ITN News** headlines (Teletext) (1110155)

10.30 FILM: Living Free (1972) with Susan Hampshire and Nigel Davenport. The sequel to *Born Free*. Elsa the lioness dies, leaving behind three cubs. The Adamsons face the daunting task of training the cubs to survive in the wild. Directed by Jack Couffer (63231773)

12.10pm Warner Cartoon (r) (3033792) **12.20 London Today** (Teletext) (8383957) **12.30 ITN Lunchtime News** (Teletext) and weather (2141995) **12.55 Home and Away** (Teletext) (2126686) **1.25 Emmerdale** (r) (Teletext) (44215421) **1.55 A Country Practice** (s) (96943082) **2.20 Behind the Palace Walls. Royal Children** (r) (s) (18891063) **2.50 The Lady Killers** (r) (Teletext) (5379518) **3.20 ITN News** headlines (Teletext) (8857605) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) (8856976)

3.30 FILM: Dragonslayer (1981) with Peter MacNicol. A sorcerer's apprentice is given the task of slaying a dragon. Directed by Matthew Robbins (s) (519268)

5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating (Teletext) (2238976)

5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (140353)

5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' opinions (779173)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (792)

6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (604)

7.00 Emmerdale. Frank is fighting for his life (Teletext) (2537)



Ian Woosnam swings into action (7.30pm)

7.30 Peak Performance. Fairway to Heaven Analysis of Ian Woosnam's swing (Teletext) (s) (228)

8.00 The Bill: Drop Greig investigates a young boy's death after a burglary. With Andrew Mackintosh, James Kennedy and Jane Wheldon (Teletext) (8957)

8.30 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People Amateur talent (Teletext) (s) (4632)

9.00 FILM: Alien Nation (1988) with James Caan and Mandy Patinkin. Sci-fi thriller set in the not too distant future, when aliens have settled on Earth. An alien and a Los Angeles cop uncover evidence of a plot which will destroy both their species. Directed by Graham Baker. **Continues after the news** (Teletext) (s) (4228)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (58150)

10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (615792)

10.40 Alien Nation (conclusion) (224334)

11.20 Big City. London guide (s) (912247)

11.55 The 1995 World Music Awards (r) (s) (308266)

1.55 FILM: Lambada — The Forbidden Dance (1988). With Lisa Herring and Jeff James. A princess from the Amazonian rainforest travels to Los Angeles to take part in a lambada contest. Lamentable cash-in, directed by Graydon Clark (s) (832358)

3.40am The Big Race Special. Two teams on a four-month drive from London to New York (7213358)

5.00 Dead Men's Tales (55700)

5.30 ITN Morning News (94006) Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Ulysses 31 (1852841)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (24228)

9.00 Saved By The Bell (r) (Teletext) (8428599)

9.25 Babylon 5: Soul Hunter (r) (Teletext) (s) (3021711)

10.20 California Dreams (r) (2639957) **10.45 Biker Mice From Mars** (5891711)

11.10 Mork and Mindy (r) (7218537) **11.40 Dog City** (r) (s) (4403599) **12.00 Creepy Crawlers** (r) (s) (7235529) **12.20pm Heckle and Jeckle** (8381599)

12.30 Sesame Street (31624) **1.30 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** (36008995)

1.55 Ginger Nutt's Christmas Circus (27982179) **2.00 Bottom's Dream** (69001995)

2.10 FILM: Monkey Business (1952). Comedy starring Cary Grant as a scientist in search of a drug to halt the ageing process. With Ginger Rogers and Marilyn Monroe. Directed by Howard Hawks (766063)

4.00 Think Tank (Teletext) (s) (957)

4.30 Fifteen to One (Teletext) (s) (841)

5.00 Ricki Lake (Teletext) (7829624)

5.45 Terrytoons (147266)

6.00 Home Improvement. American comedy series (Teletext) (s) (334)

6.30 New Gamesmaster presented by Dominik Diamond and Patrick Moore (s) (686)

7.00 Channel 4 News (992995)

7.50 Beastly Christmas: The X Mas Files. Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan Green, of Battersea Dogs Home, narrates William Wegman's canine *Cinderella* (952711)

8.00 Hands Up (Teletext) (6599)

8.30 Sophie's Meat Course: Game Sophie Grigson shows how to spatchcock a quail (Teletext) (8334)

9.00 CHOICE **Secret Lives: Ché Guevara** (Teletext) (s) (5570)



Michael Palin and Maggie Smith (10.00pm)

10.00 FILM: A Private Function (1984). Alan Bennett's comedy of social climbing and clandestine livestock in ration-stricken postwar Britain. Starring Michael Palin, Maggie Smith and Denholm Elliot. Directed by Malcolm Mowbray. (Teletext) (366995)

11.45 Apache Goes Indian Apache Indian concludes his controversial look at Bombay (Teletext) (s) (524266)

12.20am Beastly Christmas: One Animal, Some Animals French documentary following the metamorphosis of the Zoological Gallery of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris (3973532)

1.25 FILM: Nightmare Alley (1947) starring Tyrone Power, playing against matinée idol type, as an unscrupulous fairground barker who cons his way as a mind-reader but then turns to drink and ends up alone as a circus freak. Surprisingly strong story, well told. With Coleen Gray and Joan Blondell. Directed by Edmund Goulding (931087)

3.25 Rawhide (b/w) (5111261)

4.25 The World of Hammer: Peter Cushing (r) (8257342). Ends at **4.50**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 10.30am Film: The Death of the Incredible Hulk (98906044) **12.20pm-12.30** Anglia News (8383957) **12.55** Emmerdale (2126686) **1.25-1.55** Home and Away (44215421) **2.20-3.20** Father Dowling Investigates (4280599) **3.25** Anglia News (8856976) **3.30** The Big Race Special (14537) **5.00** Warner Cartoon (3370266) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2238976) **6.25** Anglia Weather (820191) **6.30-7.00** Anglia News (604) **10.30-10.40** Anglia News (615792) **11.20** Prisoner Cell Block H (210266) **12.20am** The 1995 World Music Awards (366464) **2.20** Film: Tricks of the Trade (321613) **3.55** On the Live-Side (57451280) **4.10** The Beat (2723193)

CENTRAL

As London except: 2.50-3.20 High Road (5379518) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2238976) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (141501) **11.20-11.55** Tales from the Crypt (912247) **5.00am** Asian Eye (55700)

GRANADA

As London except: 10.30-12.20 Film: A Message from Holly (98908044) **12.55-1.25** Shortland Street (2126686) **1.25** Home and Away (89188773) **1.50** Murder, She Wrote (8724131) **2.50-3.20** Emmerdale (5379518) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (2238976) **6.25-7.00** Granada Tonight (141501) **11.20** Coach (330599) **11.45-11.55** Eunice the Gladiator (288957)

HTV WEST

As London except: 12.55 Shortland Street (5450957) **1.20** Coronation Street (44216150) **2.20-3.20** Magnum (4280599) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (2238976) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (604) **11.20-11.55** Tales from the Crypt (912247)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 6.30-7.00 Wales Tonight (604) **7.30-8.00** Wales This Week (228) **10.30-10.40** HTV Wales News and Weather (615792) **11.20-11.55** Peak Performance (912247)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 10.25am Meridian News and Weather (5381353) **10.30** Film: The Death of the Incredible Hulk (98906044) **12.20pm-12.30** Meridian News and Weather (8383957) **12.55** Emmerdale (2126686) **1.25-1.55** Home and Away (44215421) **2.20** Behind the Christmas Curtain (18891063) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (5379518) **3.25** Meridian News and Weather (8856976) **3.30** Film: Protocol (519268) **5.10** Home and Away (2238976) **5.37-5.40** Three Minutes *Crimestoppers* (874529) **6.00** *Meridian Tonight* (792) **6.30-7.00** Anything You Can Do (604) **10.30-10.40** Meridian News and Weather (615792) **11.20** Time Trax (210266) **12.20am** The 1995 World Music Awards (366464) **2.20** Film: Tricks of the Trade (321613) **3.55** On the Live Side (57451280) **4.10** The Beat (2723193) **5.00** Freescreen (55700)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 10.30 Cartoon Time (1617860) **10.40-12.20** Film: Journey Back to Oz (63237957) **12.55** Emmerdale (2126686) **1.25** Home and Away (44215421) **1.55** Wish You Were Here...? (36085044) **2.25** A World of Wonder (18809082) **2.50-3.20** A Country Practice (5379518) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2238976) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (81976) **11.20-11.55** Short Story Cinema (912247)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 10.25am Calendar News and Weather (5381353) **10.30** Film: The Death of the Incredible Hulk (98906044) **12.20pm-12.30** Yorkshire: Calendar News and Weather / Bisdale: Network North (8383957) **12.55** Emmerdale (2126686) **1.25-1.55** Home and Away (44215421) **2.20** Yan Can Cook (18891063) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (5379518) **3.25** Yorkshire: Calendar News / Bisdale: Network North (8856976) **3.30** Film: Protocol (519268) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2238976) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (313044) **6.30-7.00** Blockbusters (604) **10.30-10.40** Calendar News and Weather (615792) **11.20** Prisoner Cell Block H (564599) **12.15am** Film: The Last Fling (630071) **2.00** Curiosity Killed the Cat: Live from London (2109657) **3.05** Film: Faces in the Dark (8190551) **4.35** Jobfinder (8348648)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast. (24228) **9.00** Saved By The Bell: The New Class (8428599) **9.25** Babylon 5: Soul Hunter (3021711) **10.20** California Dreams (2639957) **10.45** Biker Mice From Mars (5891711) **11.10** Mork And Mindy (7218537) **11.40** Dog City (4403599) **12.00pm** Equinox: On Jupiter (83334) **1.00** Slot Meithrin, T Chwith (27315) **1.30** Film: The Ladykillers (97735112) **3.10** Terrytoons (8859063) **3.15** Ricki Lake (2869624) **4.00** Think Tank (957) **4.30** The Real Holiday Show (841) **5.00** 5 Pump Uned 5 (9565) **5.30** Fifteen To One (421) **6.00** Newyddion (781805) **6.15** Heno (756860) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (617976) **7.25** Bacha Hi O' Ma (354082) **8.00** Cyw Haul (6599) **8.00** Film: The Last Emperor (6599) **8.30** Newyddion (8334) **9.00** Aria: Cantores Drwy'r Drych (9550179) **12.55am** The Last Europeans (7718936)

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am The DJ Kat Show (83179) **8.00** *Power Rangers* (96334) **8.30** Press Your Luck (95605) **9.00** Court TV (86957) **9.30** Oprah Winfrey (88805) **10.30** Concentration (75841) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (83995) **12.00** Jeopardy (99421) **12.30pm** Murphy Brown (15957) **1.00** The Waltons (31452) **2.00** Geraldo (36599) **3.00** Court TV (1686) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (8340889) **4.20** Undun (1434976) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (5266) **6.00** *The Simpsons* (4402) **6.30** Jeopardy (8082) **7.00** LAPD (6995) **7.30** M*A*S*H (4266) **8.00** Due South (73995) **9.00** The Commish (53131) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (63518) **11.00** Law and Order (64880) **12.00** David Letterman (8942087) **12.45am** Untouchables (6397938) **1.30** Rachel Gunn (26261) **2.00-6.00** Hit Mix (7892629)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (9692353) **10.30** ABC Nightline (298288) **1.30pm** CBS News (49228) **2.30** CBS News (23841) **3.30** Beyond 2000 (54179) **5.00** Live at Five (51570) **6.30** Tonight (56334) **8.30** World-wide Report (949353) **11.30** CBS News (24083) **12.30am** ABC News (50358) **1.30** Tonight (13648) **2.30** Newsmaker (80445) **3.30** Beyond 2000 (85990) **4.30** CBS News (33990) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (45754)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (69112) **8.00 Blood on the Moon (1948)** (50179) **10.00 To My *Daughter* (1991)** (19773) **12.00 Mass Appeal (1984)** (33402) **2.00pm Skippy and the Intruders (1969)** (47570) **4.00 At Long Last Love (1975)** (6470) **6.00 To My Daughter (1991)** (97098599) **7.40 US Top Ten** (241082) **8.00 Jack Reed: Badge of Honour (1993)** (79179) **10.00 Fatal Instinct (1993)** (32608) **11.30 Close to Eden (1992)** (204976) **1.20am Shanghai Surprise (1986)** (624758) **2.55 Worth Winning (1990)** (498464) **4.35-6.00 Blood on the Moon (1948)** (6360990)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Suspicion (1941) (2112) **6.00 Easter Parade (1948)** (30228) **8.00 Freud (1962)** (35773) **10.00 To Live and Die in LA (1985)** (28995) **12.00 Patton (1970)** (50298648) **2.50-4.00am Badman's Country (1958)** (1014822)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Once Upon a Honeymoon (1942) (90082) **8.00 Scooby-Doo and the Reluctant Werewolf** (41421) **10.00 Spider-Man: Wolfpack/The Kirkwood Haunting (1973)** (17315) **12.00 The Mudlark (1950)** (31044) **2.00pm Rigoletto (1993)** (45112) **4.00 Robinson Crusoe (1972)** (40179) **5.00 Zoo Robbery (1973)** (8976) **8.00 Heart and Souls (1993)** (65976) **8.00 The Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult (1994)** (93421) **9.30 The Movie Show** (11131) **10.00 The Dark Half (1992)** (52731570) **12.05am The Red Shoe Diaries No 5: Weekend Pass (1993)** (1361984) **1.35 Mo' Money (1992)** (453990) **3.10-4.40 After Midnight (1989)** (77600735)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Umbrella Tree (45288773) **6.30** Muppet Babies (33290112) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (36053570) **7.30** Ducktales (36073805) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale (29435402) **8.30** Wonderland (29434773) **9.00** Fraggle Rock (29458353) **9.30** Pooh Corner (63273957) **10.00** Dumbo (33214792) **10.30** Quack Attack (29454537) **11.00** Walt Disney (36081353) **12.00** Sinbad (29445889) **12.30pm** The Torkelsons (63277773) **1.00** Faerie Tale Theatre (63272228) **2.00** Wonderland (70001063) **2.30** Umbrella Tree (62099421) **3.00** Fraggle Rock (70080570) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (62001266) **4.00** Quack Attack (62080773) **4.30** Ducktales (62096957) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dale (70092315) **5.30** Danger Bay (62000537) **6.00** Tarzan (62090150) **6.30** Dinosaurs (62081402) **7.00** People (68163537) **8.00-10.00** FILM: Two Tickets to Broadway (68143773)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Equestrianism (1921044) **8.25** Skiing (98587624) **10.30** Euroski (35808) **11.00** Skiing (78773) **1.00pm** Chess (63179) **2.00** Skiing (6773) **2.30** Snooker (14860) **4.30** Offroad (36353) **5.30** Skiing (16063) **6.30** News (9976) **7.00** Aerobics (95131) **8.00** Pro Wrestling (11179) **9.00** Boxing (91315) **10.00** Darts (94402) **11.00** Golf (60482) **12.00-12.30am** Eurosport News (84667)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Centre (68666) **7.30** Racing News (12421) **8.00** Wrestling Superstars (13334) **9.00** Aerobics (11228) **9.30** Soccer Magazine (39112) **10.00** Rugby (71686) **10.30** Motorsport (20421) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (24792) **12.30pm** Basketball (863334) **3.00** Drag Racing Preview (58112) **4.00** *Speed and Beauty* (3179) **4.30** In-Line Skating (2053) **5.00** Wrestling Action Zone (4792) **6.00** Centre (2088) **6.30** Rugby Union (4808)



Fred Astaire stars in *Easter Parade* (Movies Gold, 6.00pm)

7.00 Tight Lines (895518) **7.55** Centre (124976) **8.00** Ice Warriors (97599) **10.00** Sports Centre (25421) **10.30** Tight Lines (21421) *11.30 Muscle Night* (53599) **12.30am** Rugby Union (58700) **1.00** Ice Warriors (73735) **3.00-3.30** Centre (30532)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Rugby (6332599) **8.00** Netbusters (6345063) **10.00** Golf. *Times* Corporate Challenge (6324570) **11.00** The Rugby Club (7826583) **12.00-1.00pm** Karate (8537290)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (1140131) **11.30** Ski Perfect (1141860) **12.00** Discover Your World (2853518) **12.30pm** Pierre Franey (2126605) **1.00** Around the World (9756484) **1.30** Travel Guide (2125976) **2.00** Ski Special (9019082) **3.00** *Getaway* (4138402) **3.30-4.00** *Boomerang* (2820711)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Titanic — Death of a Dream (4149518) **6.00-7.00** Biography (2134624)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am Swamp Thing (1263193) **1.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre (8585990) **2.00-4.00** FILM The Andromeda Strain (2923193)

TLC

9.00am Christmas at Home (9983711) **9.30** Simply Delicious (1809792) **10.00** It's a Vet's Life (8160792) **10.30** Jailbirds (9989995) **11.00** Only Human (1405063) **12.00** General Practice (9970247) **12.30pm** Jimmy's (1810808) **1.00** Simply Delicious (1416179) **1.30** Christmas at Home (1819179) **2.00** Will It Hurt? (7884686) **2.30** Savaged (8430266) **3.00** Animal Magnetism (7896421) **3.30-4.00** It's a Vet's Life (8435711)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (1419266) **7.30** Neighbours (1498773) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (9979518) **8.30** EastEnders (9978889) **9.00** The Bill (9952841) **9.30** The Sullivans (1801150) *10.00 All Creatures Great and Small* (1494957) **11.00** Dallas (1407421) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (9972605) **12.30pm** Neighbours (1812266) **1.00** EastEnders (1418537) **1.30** The Bill (1811537) **2.00** The Sullivans (65399119) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (3992421) **3.00** Angels (7805179) **3.30** Eldorado (8404841) **4.00** Miss Marple (95739570) **5.05** Larry Grayson's *Generation Game* (41056860) **6.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (6295976) **6.25** EastEnders (2848624) **7.00** Eldorado (7880860) **7.30** Taxi (8420889) **8.00** George And Mildred (7806808) **8.30** What a Carry On! (7885315) **9.00** Minder (5247624) **10.00** The Bill (6095537) **10.35** Classic Sport (1819976) **11.35** KYTV (2373860) **12.15am** Dr Who (8905377) **12.45** FILM: Memphis (2271822) *2.15 Shopping at Night*

TCC

6.00am Animated Classic Showcase (9146137) **6.45** Tiny and Crew (1645247) **7.00** Barney (40889) **7.30** Happily Ever After (52624) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (50131) **8.30** Eek the Cat (59402) **9.00** Garfield (73082) **9.30** Where's Wally? (64268) **10.00** Skeleton Warriors (13247) **10.30** Battletech (79266) **11.00** AJ's Time Travellers (20353) **11.30** The Babysitters' Club (21082) **12.00** Art Attack (3228745) **12.15pm** Dish of the Day (4173334) **12.30** No Naked Flames (64204) **1.00** Heartbreak High (14708) **2.00** The Tick (5063) **2.30** Ready or Not (4247) **3.00** Sweet Valley (4570) **3.30** Hang Time (9792) **4.00** California (5699) **4.30-5.00** Madison (7711)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Blue (83792) **6.30** Count Duckula (88976) **7.00** Batfink (1402518) **7.05** Hero Turtles (3433957) **7.45** Rugrats (635745) **8.15** Doug (129599) **8.45** Rocko (5248537) **9.00** Alvin (28470) **9.30** Pee-Wee (60082) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (16247) **11.00** Children's BBC (29711) **12.00** Rocko (22334) **12.30pm** Real Monsters (31570) **1.00** Ship to Shore (50529) **1.30** Mighty Max (30841) **2.00** Speed Racer (9247) **2.30** Galaxy High School (7911) **3.00** Count Duckula (1082) **3.30** Littlest Pet Shop (2686) **4.00** Hero Turtles (4421) **4.30** Rugrats (7155) **5.00** Clarissa (3529) **5.30** Fish and Chips and TechNick (1957) **6.00** Doug (1570) **6.30** Are You Afraid? (5150) **7.00** Fish and Chips (3063) **7.30-8.00** Nancy Drew (1334)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Driving Passions (8421518) **4.30** Voyager (8410402) **5.00** The Blue Revolution (7887773) **6.00** Invention (8431995) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (1359773) **7.30** Beer, the Pharaoh's Liquid Gold (8411131) **8.00** Wonders of Weather (7897150) **8.30** Ultra Science (7883957) **9.00** Blood and Honour (1865599) *9.30 Science Detectives* (1890044) **10.00** Arthur C. Clarke (5248353) **11.00** Top Marques (1861044) **11.30-12.00** Special Forces (8166976)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM Nickelodeon (6177082) **2.00pm** Danger Man (6165247) **3.00** Scotland Yard (7890247) **3.30** Man from Interpol (8439537) **4.00** FILM The Stranger (7894083) **6.00** Scotland Yard (8428421) **6.30** The Critic (1353599) **7.30** The Protectors (8415957) **8.00** Space 1999 (5229228) **9.00** The Prisoner (5232792) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Quadrophenia (1877605)

UK LIVING

6.00am *Agony Hour* (7258179) **7.00** *Living Magazine* (6039421) **9.00** The Treatment (2931976) **9.30** Kate and Allie (5034228) **10.00** Hearts of Gold (6025228) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (3802044) **11.55** The Food and Drink Christmas Quiz (6955976) **12.30pm** Brookside (5487266) **1.05** Kilroy (1923773) **2.00** Agony Hour (4918537) **3.00** Living Magazine (4658841) **4.00** Infatuation UK (8397570) **4.30** Crosswits (7441334) **5.05** The Joker's Wild (59255402) **5.30** Bewitched (8317334) **6.00** Esther (8314247) **6.30** Brookside (6709179) **7.05** The Jerry Springer Show (7060421) **8.00** The Young and the Restless (7751228) **8.55** FILM: The Fabulous Baker Boys (56381570) **11.00-12.00** Love Life (6026957)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm The Wonder Years (6315) **5.30** Tintin (8063) **6.00** Batman (5976) **6.30** Catchphrase **7.00** Through the Keyhole (6179) **7.30** My Two Dads (5112) **8.00** The Darling Buds of May (37131) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries (57995) **10.00** All Clued Up (61247) **10.30** Neon Rider (49841) **11.30** Batman (47501) **12.00** Tintin (89759) **12.30am** Concentration **1.00** Zorro (70174) **1.30** Rhoda (13377) **2.00** Neon Rider (38358) **3.00** Rhoda (90938) **3.30** Zorro (75700) **4.00** The Wonder Years (69193) **4.30-5.00** The Black Stallion (91667)

MTV

6.30am The Grind (24353) **7.00** 3 from 1 (8207421) **7.15** Awake (4847082) **8.00** Music Videos (761402) **10.30** Rockumentary (71824) *11.00 Soul* (30402) *12.00 Hits* (98889) **1.00pm** Non-Stop (8129773) **2.15** 3 from 1 (90900150) **2.30** Sports (6605) **3.00** Cinematic (8633995) **3.15** Hanging Out (7068421) **4.00** News **4.15** Hanging Out (2323112) **4.30** Dial MTV (6841) **5.00** The Dance Chart (8773) **5.30** Hanging Out (92529) **7.00** Lenny Kravitz (20841) **8.00** Unplugged (46889) **9.00** Red Hot Chili Peppers (19247) *9.30 Beavis and Butthead* (99518) **10.00** News **10.15** Cinematic (714334) **10.30** Aeon Flux (72353) **11.00** The End? (64150) **12.30am** Videos (9687648)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (1626745) **9.00** Café (1005537) **12.00** Heart and Soul (2107570) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (2123518) **2.00** Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis (9088112) **3.00** Into the Music (8568678) **6.00** Beach Boys (2138082) **7.00** VH-1 for You (6334957) **8.00** Review (6343605) **9.00** John Mayall (6323841) **10.00** The Vinyl Years (6333228) **11.00** The Bridge (8507112) **1.00am** Justin Hayward (1393803) **2.00** Dawn Patrol

ZEE TV

7.00am Asian Morning (11722711) **8.30** Love Stories (60042042) **9.00** Tamil FILM (76742978) **12.00** Dekh Bhai Dekh **12.30pm** India Show (62146334) **1.00** Hindi FILM: Sapne Sajan Ke (25125150) **4.00** Zee Top Ten (44279518) **5.00** Zee Zone **5.30** Punjabi Folk (21375792) **6.00** Dillagi (21372605) *6.30 Zee and U* *7.00 Highlife* (59373792) **7.30** Galaxzee (21352841) **8.00** News **8.30** Andaz (59378247) **9.00** Urdu Serial (89015082) **10.00** Zee Horror (51597137) **10.30** Commander (45292745) **11.00** Your Zindagi (44270247) **11.30-12.00** Sri Krishna (46665570)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Cartoons from 5am to 9pm; TNT films.
7.00pm National Velvet (1944) (74972781) **9.15 Coma (1978)** (62902353) **11.00 Mare Nostrum (1926)** (92385150) **1.10am Le Fin du Jour (1938)** (57757396) **3.00-5.00 Un Revenant (1946)** (94924193)

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel.

SPORT

Future will be discussed today

Ireland appear ready to end Charlton era

BY PETER BALL

AFTER almost ten years of unprecedented success, Jack Charlton's career as manager of Ireland is in danger of ending in confusion and bitterness. His future will be discussed when he meets Football Association of Ireland (FAI) officials in Dublin this morning, with indications that he may be pressed to resign.

To Charlton's surprise, and dismay, reports circulating yesterday suggested that the FAI was planning a press conference on the manager's position today. The reports proved false, but the implications for today's meeting are nevertheless unmistakable.

"I don't know anything about what's going on, I don't know where these reports came from," Charlton said yesterday. "They didn't come from me, and the FAI say they didn't get it from them.

"I'm going to Dublin because I'd agreed to drop in to my pub there, and I will see Sean Connolly and Louis Kilcoyne [the FAI's chief executive and president respectively], but I'm not going to any press conference. I didn't know anything about these reports."

Charlton's future has been the subject of growing speculation for some months, as Ireland frittered away a commanding position in their European championship qualifying group with a disastrous series of results in the summer and autumn. Things came to a head after the defeat by Holland in the play-off at Anfield last Wednesday.

In the aftermath of that failure to qualify, Charlton said that he intended to take until the new year to have a holiday and think over his future. That was apparently a small enough request from the manager who had taken Ireland to the European championships in 1988 and to the World Cup finals for the first time in 1990, when they reached the quarter-finals, and again in 1994. Small, but still too much, it seems.



Charlton: asked for time

"I had asked for a bit of time just to think," Charlton said yesterday, "but it looks like I'm not going to get it. I need to have a little think and make my mind up, but I'm being put under a ridiculous amount of pressure."

Immediately after the defeat at Anfield, Connolly said that Charlton would decide whether he wanted to stay or go. Most expected him to resign, probably in February, when he would have fulfilled a cherished ambition to complete ten years in the job. That now seems unlikely.

With his resignation anticipated, speculation has mounted, and the FAI may have decided to end the confusion. The association may also want to have a new man in place before the managers' meeting in Liechtenstein on January 23 to arrange the World Cup qualifying group fixtures.

Several caps have already been thrown into the ring by would-be successors, with Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, making plain his interest in the job this week. Joe Kinnear, of Wimbledon, also has some popular support. Other names drawn into recent discussion include Kenny Dalglish, Howard Wilkinson, Howard Kendall, Liam Brady, Kevin Moran and Mark Lawrenson.

Martin O'Neill is expected to be confirmed as the new manager of Leicester City within the next 24 hours. The Filbert Street club has been given official permission to open talks with the 43-year-old Irishman after his resignation as manager of Norwich City at the weekend after only six months in charge.

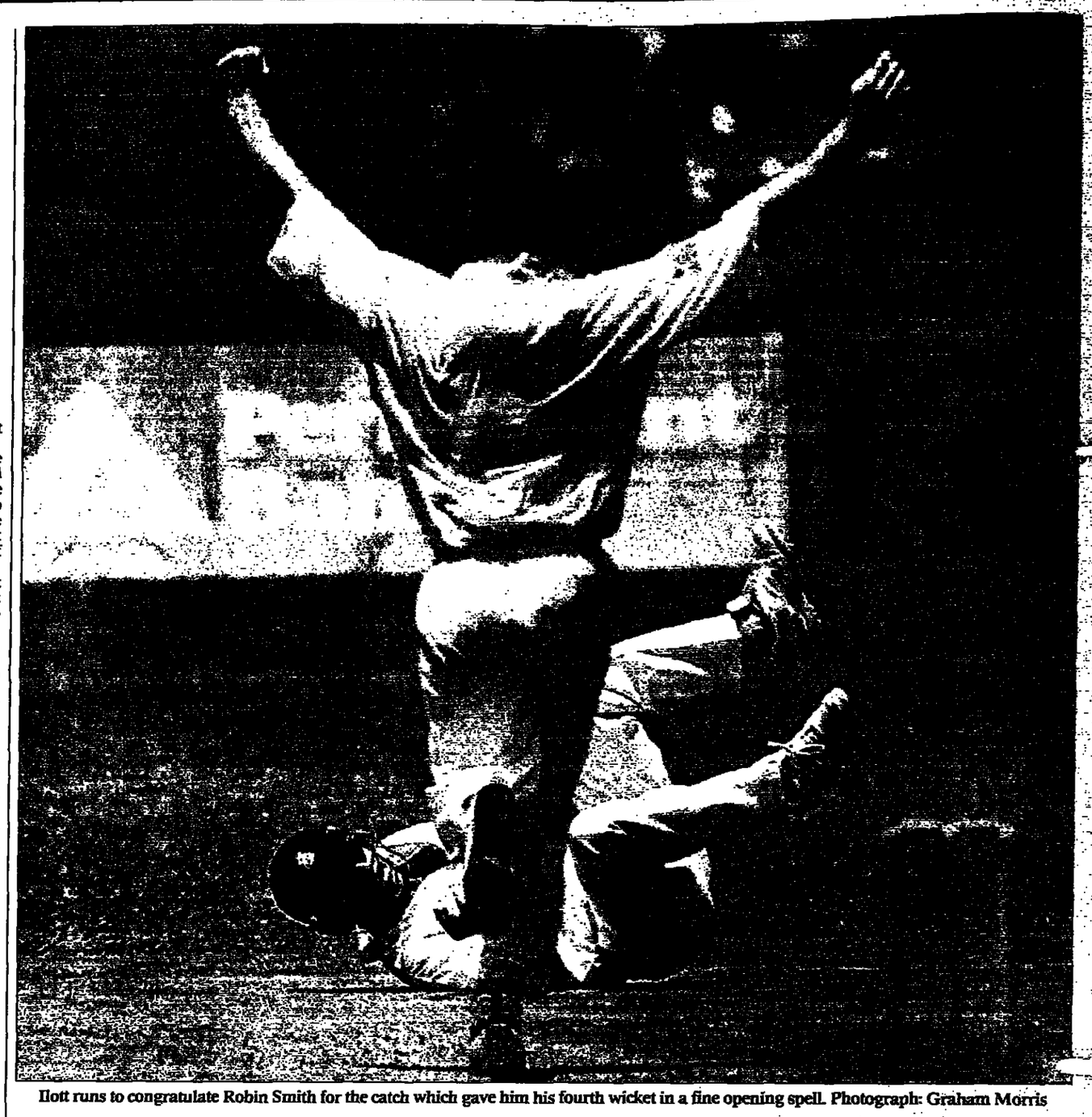
Martin George, the Leicester chairman, is negotiating a compensation deal with Norwich thought to be worth around £500,000, and O'Neill should be appointed in time for the trip to Endsleigh League first division promotion rivals, Grimsby Town.

The former Nottingham Forest midfield player and Northern Ireland international came close to taking the Leicester job when it was vacated by Brian Little a year ago, but decided instead to stay with Wycombe Wanderers as they pushed for their third successive promotion.

Luton Town are hoping to name their new manager tomorrow. Mike Walker and Lennie Lawrence are apparently competing closely for the post vacated by Terry Westley on Monday.

A club spokesman insisted that the board was still considering applications yesterday, but admitted: "Mr Walker and Mr Lawrence have both been interviewed by the board and there may be an announcement tomorrow."

Walker, who had also been linked with the vacant Leicester position, has been out of management for 13 months since being dismissed by Everton. He was previously in charge of Norwich. Lawrence, a former Charlton Athletic and Middlesbrough manager, was dismissed by Bradford City last month.



Ilott runs to congratulate Robin Smith for the catch which gave him his fourth wicket in a fine opening spell. Photograph: Graham Morris

England commuters judder to a halt

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN PIETERMARITZBURG

PIETERMARITZBURG (first day of three, South African Students XI won toss): Students XI have scored 253 for six against England XI

AS SOON as their team bus broke down on the freeway from Durban, England's cricketers sensed they were in for an unrewarding day. It was duly provided by a pair of injuries to complicate their planning for the fourth Test, starting on Boxing Day, and a maiden century from Nic Pothas, which originated amid the debris of five wickets in the opening hour.

Pothas, a regular in the Transvaal side, finished unbeaten on 141 as the England bowlers utterly failed to capitalise on their remarkable start. From an embarrassing 23 for five, the Students XI repaired, retrenched and took command, so that by the time England's replacement bus headed back towards the coast it was carrying a severely chastened cargo.

The players could be consoled only by the fact that their management team was absent. John Barclay went to Durban airport to round up a posse of incoming wives and girlfriends, while Raymond Illingworth took the day off. He would not have been impressed by most of the bowling and out-cricket, or by a fatalistic attitude that prevailed from mid-afternoon. He will also be concerned to learn of minor injury scares involving Jason Gallian and Peter Martin.

This fixture had looked, from a distance, a triviality, no more than a gentle work-out for the also-rans of the party. But with the third Test, like the first, a victim of bad weather, it assumed new importance. England picked their Test team, minus the resting Dominic Cork, and competitive match practice was deemed vital.

From the outset, it did not proceed to plan. Having decided to commute daily to Natal's provincial capital — a round trip of 100 miles — England found themselves marooned, midway through their journey, at an hour when they would customarily be starting breakfast. By the time a second bus had rescued and delivered them, it was necessary to delay the start for half an hour.

Things now happened so quickly that the students were threatened with being bowled out by lunch as Martin and Mark Ilott used the new ball effectively. While the ball was hard, the bounce of the pitch was uneven. Andy Wessels was caught at short leg off his glove and Martin van Jaarsveld was bowled by Ilott playing speculatively across the line. Martin contributed the important wicket of Gerry Liebenberg and when Ilott struck twice more in his seventh over the game looked a complete mismatch.

Martin rested with one for six from seven overs but bowled only four more overs in the day. He left the field for treatment to a strain in his right shoulder that has been discomfiting him periodically through the tour. It is not thought to be serious but England would have been happier without it.

Gallian, pitched into this game the day after his arrival from Pakistan, was evidently still suffering from jet lag as he fell over in trying to deliver his first ball. Much merriment greeted this, but there was nothing amusing about his sprint from the field, shortly after lunch, having dislocated the little finger of his left hand making a stop at cover.

The team physiotherapist, Wayne Morton, judged that Gallian would be sore for a day or two but will be fit to bat and, presumably, available for the Test. For now, at least, Gallian will take on the onerous No 3 position, Alec Stewart having won his case to continue as Michael Atherton's opening partner.

Pothas, a tall player of range and dexterity, did not suggest permanency when heaving an ungainly six in Richard Illingworth's first over. Bravado in a lost cause, or so it seemed. But he played ever better as the day wore on and, after Ilott had returned to dismiss Mark Davis for 44, Pothas took complete charge.

His partnership with Nicky Boje, who is in the Test squad, is worth 145 and Boje, a compact left-hander, has made only 42 of them. Pothas was dropped once — at deep square leg by the hapless Devon Malcolm, fielding as substitute for Martin — but it was a rare lapse in an innings born out of desperation, and so far spanning four and a half hours.

Global vision, page 44
Record forfeited, page 44

SCOREBOARD

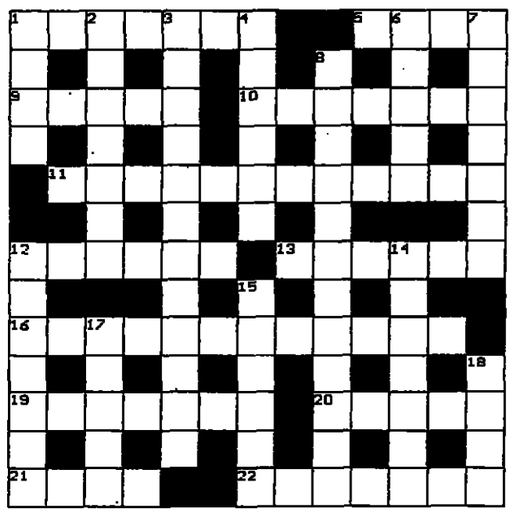
SA STUDENTS XI

A Wessels c Smith b Ilott	6
*G F J Liebenberg c Russell b Martin	12
M van Jaarsveld b Ilott	2
N Adams c Russell b Ilott	0
†N Pothas not out	141
V Wandrag c Smith b Ilott	0
M J G Davis c Russell b Ilott	44
N Boje not out	42
Extras (lb 2, w 1, nb 3)	6
Total (6 wkts)	253

J D Albanie, B P Horan and J September to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-19, 3-23, 4-23, 5-23, 6-108.
BOWLING: Ilott 22-6-77-5, Martin 11-5-33-1, Gallian 5-0-19-0; Watkinson 16-4-50-0; Illingworth 24-3-65-0; Hick 5-0-7-0.
ENGLAND XI: *M A Atherton, A J Stewart, J E R Gallian, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R A Smith, †R C Russell, M Watkinson, P J Martin, R K Illingworth, M C Ilott.
Umpires: R B Shah and S F Marais.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 658 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

1 Painful choice (7)
5 Lighting device (4)
9 Dislodged piece of turf (5)
10 RC cassock (7)
11 Excellent practical example (6-6)
12 Mrs —, *Household Management* writer (6)
13 Trickery; a sweet (6)
16 Allow to be unrestrained (4,4,4)
19 "England — . . ." *(Nelson)* (7)
20 Rubbish (esp. US) (5)
21 Perform again (4)
22 Satisfactory outcome (7)

DOWN

1 Queen of Carthage, loved Aeneas (4)
2 Attracting admiration (7)
3 Plain, unemotional (6-2-4)
4 Property; advantages (6)
6 Pile up (5)
7 1/100th of a D-mark (7)
8 Slow, rule-bound (office) (12)
12 Source of anxiety, annoyance (7)
14 Component of (army) division; work team (7)
15 Population count (6)
17 Dull, flat, empty (5)
18 In such a way (4)

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Name/Address .....

.....

SOLUTION TO No 657

ACROSS: 1 Hock 3 Cupboard 8 Murk 9 Gruesome 11 Close ranks 14 Drawer 15 Bottom 17 Brown study 20 Irritant 21 Ogre 22 Spandrel 23 Neon

DOWN: 1 Homicide 2 Corporal 4 Uproar 5 Bleak House 6 Avon 7 Deed 10 Celebrated 12 Struggle 13 Empyrean 16 Twinge 18 Bias 19 Aria

WINNERS OF TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 652

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is A Powell, Stratford-upon-Avon.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is N A Brewis, New Waltham, Grimsby. All flights subject to availability.

Venables supports vision for future

BY JOHN GOODBODY

TERRY VENABLES yesterday called for more "imagination" in the teaching of football and said that it was vital that we got "our vision right" of the future style of the national game.

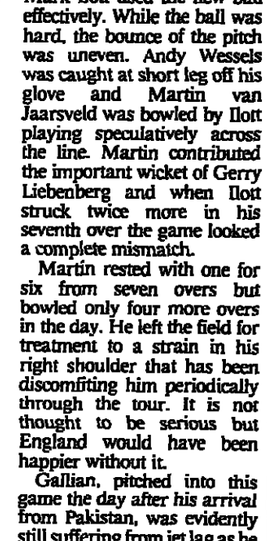
The England coach said: "We are in the middle of trying to shape ourselves, what our vision of football in ten or 20 years' time will be." He said that although we do some things better than other countries, we could benefit from other qualities, such as the flair of the French and the organisation of the Germans.

Venables was speaking as he launched the biggest nationwide competition to be held in schools to celebrate the staging, in England, of the 1996 European championship. Venables will chair the panel judging the short-listed entries from up to 24,000 schools, which will produce a piece of work demonstrating knowledge and understanding of particular countries.

Venables said: "When I was at school, if you were interested in football, you could not wait for lessons to finish to get out on the field playing football. Hopefully, through their interest in football and Euro '96, this competition will help switch youngsters on to their lessons as well."

Already 3,000 schools have entered the competition, which will consist of submitting written work, a poster, a set of postcards, a song, model and a mural or a collage, which will link the football theme with European awareness. The schools will choose one long-established European country together with one of the newly-created emerging countries as the focus of their study.

There are four separate categories: ages 5-11 (primary schools); ages 11-16 (secondary schools); ages 16-18 (secondary schools, sixth form or tertiary colleges) and special schools (all ages). The national winners will get tickets to the finals of Euro '96 and the regional winners will receive products from Canon and Philips, which are sponsoring the competition.



Venables: imagination

